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O B S E R V A T I O N S

A N D

R E M A R K S

IN A JOURNEY THROUGH

S I C I L Y A N D C A L A B R I A,

IN THE YEAR 1791:

WITH A

P O S T S C R I P T,

CONTAINING

SOME ACCOUNT OF THE CEREMONIES OF
THE LAST HOLY WEEK AT ROME,

A N D O F

A SHORT EXCURSION TO TIVOLI.

BY THE REV. BRIAN HILL, A.M.

LATE OF QUEEN'S COLLEGE, OXFORD, AND CHAPLAIN
TO THE EARL OF LEVEN AND MELVILL.

FORSAN ET HÆC OLIM MEMINISSE JUVABIT. VIRG.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR JOHN STOCKDALE, PICCADILLY.

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TO

THOSE ORNAMENTS OF ANCIENT NOBILITY,

THE

EARL AND COUNTESS OF

L E V E N A N D M E L V I L L,

WHOSE CONDUCT IN PRIVATE LIFE

ADDS LUSTRE TO THEIR RANK,

AND HONOR TO THEIR STATION,

AND WHO, WHILST THEY THEMSELVES SHEW FORTH

A PATTERN OF REAL PIETY

AND CONJUGAL FELICITY,

HAVE THE HAPPINESS OF SEEING A NUMEROUS OFFSPRING

WALKING IN THEIR STEPS,

AND IMITATING THEIR VIRTUES,

THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE MOST

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED, BY

THEIR MOST OBLIGED

AND MOST FAITHFUL

HUMBLE SERVANT,

BRIAN HILL.

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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages were first put to paper with no other design than that of refreshing my own memory, and complying with the wishes of a few particular friends, who were anxious of hearing from me as often as I could find opportunity of writing to them. This made me take up the pen at almost every place where we stopped, and put down the occurrences of the day in order to furnish matter for

my letters, which being usually written in the way of diary, will account for my frequently expressing myself in the present tense instead of the past, and plead my apology with the candid reader for whatever his judgment may discover as unfit for the public eye, before which nothing was further from my intention than to have suffered what I had hastily scribbled down as my first thoughts, and under every disadvantage of situation, &c. to have appeared. The real truth is, that having shewn my journal to a few intimates since my return to England, others wished to have a sight of it, and after them still more requested the perusal of the manuscript,

script, and very much urged the publication. I then resolved to print some particular parts of my tour in our provincial newspaper the Shrewsbury Chronicle, and to strike off a few copies for such of my own circle of acquaintance from whom I might expect a partiality and indulgence beyond what I was conscious the performance merited. But after I had actually sent it to the press, and it was announced by the printer for his next paper, I felt so sensible of the many imperfections of the piece, that I wrote to stop its coming out, and told my friends what I had done; the consequence of which was, that instead of being satisfied with the suppression of it, they

were

were a great deal the more importunate for its being sent abroad into the world in form of a volume; and made me promise to comply with their solicitations. And thus have I acted in this business just like the poor wary clown who waded through a deep river for fear the bridge should not bear his weight. I know well that *the pressing request of friends* is the hacknied pretence of many a garretteer for obtruding his trash and falsehood upon the public; but if any thing in the following journal may be deemed the former, I can conscientiously assure the reader that I have steered perfectly clear of the latter, and not played off the traveller, instead of
I proving

proving myself the faithful narrator.

I AM not, however, without hopes that some information and amusement may both be gathered from the following sheets, to which I have made some additions, chiefly by way of notes, which were not in the original manuscript, and which, I flatter myself, will not be thought uninteresting; a circumstance which must plead my excuse for the length or frequency of the notes which may be interspersed throughout the work.

I cannot proceed any further in this preface without acknowledging the wonderful goodness of that Providence which so evidently provided

fided over us during the whole of our journey from Naples, till our return to that city, especially whilst we were passing through Calabria, a country, which though scarcely inferior to any other in climate and productions, and which for its sublime and magnificent views, forests of immense chefnuts, and stately oaks which flourish to the summits of the highest mountains, perhaps exceeds every other, yet affords for travellers no one convenience whatever; but on the contrary, they have every real danger and misery to encounter, and that in a much greater degree than in Sicily; especially from the gangs of banditti, which have considerably increased, and become
more

more desperate since the dreadful earthquake of 1783; infomuch that even the barons of the soil dare not move half a mile from their own habitations without being accompanied with armed guards.

WHEN therefore I reflect that we have been mercifully preserved from these depredators and murderers, as well as that we have escaped in safety over precipices and mountains almost unexplored and inaccessible, through wide rapid rivers, where a single slip, either of our mules or guides, might have endangered our lives, and that during our stay in these volcanic countries there were no less than seven earthquakes, none
of

of which were felt by us, though two of them did considerable damage a short while before we passed the places where they were most violent : I say when I call to mind all these circumstances, and the unusual good health which was graciously vouchsafed to us when we stood most in need of it, I feel myself not a little thankful for the return of myself and friends to a land of peace, plenty, and comfort ; a land over which the dark clouds of tyranny and oppression may not lower, but where the genial sun of freedom ever shines, where every individual can sit without fear or dismay *under his own vine and under his own fig-tree*, and where every
gift

gift of heaven, religious and civil, is the happy portion of its highly favored inhabitants.

Nothing now remains for me to add, but my sincere wishes, that if any of my countrymen, who may take the trouble of reading this work, shall think proper to visit either Sicily or Calabria, they may gather from it some hints which may prove useful to them in their tour, and some precautions which may tend to preserve them in safety

(“ Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum,”)

till they return to their native isle, to enjoy those constitutional blessings of *liberty and order*, under the
benign

benign auspices of the BEST OF MONARCHS, which absence from it must only the more endear to them, and cause them to taste with double relish.

Harley-street,
Feb. 1792.

E R R A T A.

- Page 20. line 6. *for* 100 *read* 300.
 — 22. — 1. *for* terminate *read* terminates.
 — 37. — 2. *for* use *read* sale.
 — 49. — 2. *for* infect *read* infest.
 — 52. — 20. *for* lies *read* lie.
 — 62. — 8. *for* from *read* form.
 — 119. — 4. *for* dissolution *read* desolation.
 — 130. — 1. *for* overthrown *read* overflowed.
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✂ The Binder is desired to place the MAP facing the Title.

OBSERVATIONS AND REMARKS

IN A JOURNEY THROUGH

SICILY AND CALABRIA.

PALERMO, *February 1, 1791.*

WE fet sail from Naples yesterday morning about nine o'clock in the Tartaro packet, commanded by Captain Chianchi, and after a very good passage of twenty-five hours, landed safely upon this island. As the distance is rather more than 180 miles, we thought ourselves extremely fortunate in concluding our

B

voyage

voyage in so short a time, especially at a season when the weather in this climate, as well as in England, is very variable and tempestuous. The vessel *is* *burden,* is always furnished with provisions for twelve days, and being established by government, is well armed and manned to keep off the Turkish and Algerine pirates, who are always upon the watch to attack vessels of inferior force. The company on board formed as motley an assembly as was ever collected together; and would probably upon a longer acquaintance have afforded many curious and entertaining anecdotes. Besides the crew, which consisted of Italians and Slavonians, there were two priests, a woman and child, three Englishmen, (viz. my brother Sir Richard Hill, my nephew and myself) an Irishman, a Welshman, a Frenchman, a German, a madman, and a murderer.

The latter had fled to Naples, after killing a woman at this place, and was brought back in chains, to be delivered up into the hands of justice, which is much better administered here than at that city *. At the distance of twenty-four miles from Naples we sailed under Caprea, a small island, where the emperor Tiberius spent the last ten years of his life, in pursuing the most infamous pleasures, and exercising the most wanton cruelties. It presents an high shore, the north side of which is well cultivated, but the south is only a range of vast naked rocks. 'Till we had passed this island the sea continued smooth, so that we had full enjoyment of one of the finest prospects imaginable. The city of Naples, large and handsomely

* Sir William Hamilton told us that the king of Naples loses four, and sometimes six thousand subjects every year by assassinations. And yet there have been only two executions these twelve years.

built, is all seen at one view. The shore extends itself on each side, so as to form a magnificent amphitheatrical bay, mountainous, but highly cultivated. On one side is Vesuvius, a great conical mountain, 100 feet higher than the famous Snowdon *, continually throwing out smoke, and, at the time of an eruption, flames twice its own height into the air: On the other side the hill of Paufylippo, ornamented with gardens, vineyards, and country houses; the Gulph of Baia, and the Promontory of Misenum, together with the lofty and fertile islands of Ischia and Procita.

Upon the approach of night, and just as we were losing sight of land, a rolling sea, which overthrew all the

* This mountain, which is the highest in Wales, is, according to Mr. Duten's calculation; 3555 feet above the level of the sea.

moveable furniture on board, forced me to my cabin, where I suffered so much from sickness, that I expected to become a victim to curiosity, and fully resolved never to venture upon sea again, when I could possibly avoid it. Early in the morning we passed under Ustica, which prolonged the misery of myself and companions (who were also very ill) a few hours, as the captain was afraid of coming upon that island before day-break.

As soon as I had power to rise from my hammock, I had the happiness of seeing that our voyage was nearly over; we were then coming upon the island of Sicily, and sailing slowly under the shelter of a great barren mountain. The entrance of the harbor is attended with some danger, as the wind, rushing suddenly on this side the mountain,

which terminate abruptly, sometimes carries away the masts of the ships. The city of Palermo, from the sea, has a striking agreeable appearance. It is situated upon a small and fertile plain, backed by lofty mountains. Bright and cold. Wind N.W.

PALERMO, *Feb. 2.*

THIS city, which is the capital of Sicily, is of great antiquity; and if a conjecture may be formed from its ancient name Panormus, which signifies an universal harbor, it was formerly in a very flourishing condition. By whom it was founded, is uncertain; nor have we any authentic accounts of its inhabitants till it became a colony of the Phenicians, after which it passed into
the

the hands of the various nations that became masters of this island. The present city principally consists of two wide, uniform, and well built streets, each about a mile in length, crossing each other at right angles in the center, where there is a small octagon space, ornamented with four statues. Adjoining to the town, and near the sea, is a public garden or promenade, planted with orange and lemon-trees, formed into arcades, and now loaded with fruit; the stems of the trees stand in furrows, and are continually watered by a small stream. In the middle is a fountain, surrounded by four grotesque temples, in two of which are canary-birds. Among the oranges is a kind called sanguinei or bloody, which are stained in the middle with red, and have usually the finest flavor. Some of the lemons are sweet, but very flat, tasting like sugar and water. The

citrons grow to an immense size; the rind, which occupies at least three-fourths of the bulk of the fruit, is eaten with sugar; the juice is sharper than the sourest lemon I ever tasted. Indian figs, in very great abundance, grow wild in the fields and hedges, to the height of twelve or fourteen feet; of these there are three kinds, one with large spines, another with smaller, and the third almost smooth. Their fruit is cooling and delicious, 10,000*l.* worth of which is sold annually to the poor people in the neighbourhood of this city. Another plant, very common in this country, is the aloe, which usually blossoms every fifth or sixth year. Of these there are five or six species, which grow mostly in the hedges, and, together with the Indian figs, form a most impenetrable fence.

In consequence of an introductory letter from Sir W. Hamilton, we have dined to day with the Prince Caramanico, viceroy of Sicily, who resided some years in England as Ambassador from the court of Naples. He has the command of all the troops in the island, and presides over all the tribunals of justice, and of the finances; in the quality of legate a latere from the Roman Pontiff, he sits under a canopy in the king's chapel, assisted by all the sacred council. To him also belongs the nomination to all the municipal and military offices in the kingdom. He is an affable polite man, and notwithstanding the state in which he lives, made us feel ourselves perfectly at ease. He gave place to my brother, as a foreigner, but walked before all his other guests. We sat down twenty to table, were served in great

stle and magnificence, and among a variety of other good things, had iced punch and English porter. The palace, which is an indifferent old building, is situated in a square, near the south gate of the city, and commands a delightful prospect of the adjacent country. At the top is an observatory, inhabited by an ingenious old priest, who has been in England, and brought from thence several astronomical instruments constructed by Ramsden*. Bright and windy. Farenheit's thermometer, 63.

* In one of the rooms in the palace is a fire-place in which was a comfortable wood-fire, but I believe this is the only chimney in the whole island of Sicily, at least, we never saw any other, either in the inside or outside of the best houses and most magnificent palaces, except one in a convent of nobles, which, however, was never used. It is probable the viceroy borrowed the idea of his chimney and fire-place from what he had seen in England.

SINCE

PALERMO, *Feb. 3.*

SINCE our arrival at this place, Captain Chianchi has done us the kindness to introduce us to Mr. Tough, an English merchant, and banker, who resides here, and who takes infinite pains to oblige us in every way that lies in his power; with him we have been this evening at a Capuchin convent, about a mile out of town, in which is a vault made use of as a receptacle for the dead. It consists of four wide passages, each about forty feet in length, into which the light of the sun is admitted by windows at the ends. Along the sides of these are niches, in which the bodies are set upright, cloathed in coarse garments, with their heads, arms and feet bare. They are prepared for this situation by
broil-

broiling them six or seven months upon a gridiron, over a slow fire, till all the fat and moisture are consumed. The skin, which looks like pale coloured leather, remains entire, and the character of the countenance is in some degree preserved. A man who was with us, pointed out his father-in-law who had been dead two years; except the bodies of two reputed saints, one of which had been there 150 years, and the other 100, they are all of modern date, as appears by an inscription on a small piece of paste-board hung to the arms of every corpse, signifying the name of the person and the time of his decease. In some of the higher niches they are laid out at full length, and at the top are children of six or seven years of age. On the floor are handsome trunks, containing carcases of
per-

persons of distinction, the keys of which are kept by the relations. Cloudy and windy with storms of hail. Ther. 53.

PALERMO, *Feb. 4.*

THE magistrates appointed to preserve the order of society in this city, are, first, the supreme judge, to whom belongs the administration of justice in criminal cases; he is the head of the nobility, and immediately follows the viceroy in all the solemn functions. Secondly, the pretor, who regulates the affairs of the city. He is the perpetual deputy of the kingdom; chief in parliament of the order to whom appertains the right of regulating the king's demesne, and possessed of the prerogative of captain-general, during

during the absence of the viceroy. Thirdly, The pretorian court, which consists of three judges, citizens of Palermo, who are chosen annually by the king. They assist the supreme judge in the decision of criminal affairs, and the pretor in the deliberations upon the finances; these two officers, however, have neither vote nor signature, except the pretor, in the business respecting the public bank and first fruits. Fourthly, The senate of Palermo, composed of the pretor and six practitioners of the law, named by the king, who wear the toga after the manner of the ancient Roman senators, and principally inspect the police which regards the grain and provisions. There are, besides, seven great officers of state, to each of which is assigned a peculiar employment. First, *Il Maestro Portelano*, to whom is committed the care of

of

of the public granaries, and who manages the sale of the corn both at home and abroad. The imposition of a tax upon this commodity has nearly proved the ruin of agriculture, especially as the exportation of it is prohibited to all those who are not able to pay an exorbitant price for that privilege. The quantity of corn annually produced in the island does not at present amount to more than a tenth part of what was collected in former years. Secondly, The auditor-general, who passes judgment, without appeal, upon all offences committed within the precincts of the palace. Thirdly, The high-admiral, whose jurisdiction extends over the marine. Fourthly, The chancellor, who overlooks all the notaries of the kingdom, prepares all official patents, reads the propositions when the parliament assembles, and, at
the

the time of a coronation, tenders the oath of fidelity to the people, and also proclaims that of the monarch, who thereby binds himself to maintain and defend the privileges of the city of Palermo. The same ceremony takes place upon the installation of a viceroy. Fifthly, The prothonotary of the queen's chamber, who has the inspection of the demesnes of six cities, viz. Syracuse, Lentini, Carlentini, St. Filippo, Mineo and Virini, which were formerly appropriated to the queens of Sicily. Sixthly, The chief secretary, who presides over the officers appointed to receive the taxes and duties in the places of their respective jurisdictions. And seventhly, The lieutenant of the royal exchequer, who has the administration of all effects that have been sequestered or confiscated.

This

This is the principal residence of the greater part of the Sicilian nobility ; and as it is not the custom for any gentleman to walk in the streets, at least 1000 carriages are said to be kept in the town. They are for the most part in the English taste, very elegant, and shewn to the greatest advantage, with beautiful horses richly caparisoned, and as many footmen in splendid liveries as can be crowded together behind. Every evening all the people of rank drive about in this manner on the grand public terrace by the sea side. There are also very convenient hackney coaches, covered and open, waiting all day in their respective stations.

The language spoken here and throughout Sicily is Italian, nearly in the Neapolitan dialect, but in general better than at Naples. The custom

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also

also of mixing much gesture in their discourse, especially with the head, fingers, or both, and more particularly when they are disputing and quarrelling, is equally prevalent throughout Sicily as it is in Italy.

The number of taylors here is prodigious : the dress of the gentlemen is quite *a l'Angloise*, with frocks, round hats, and clubb'd hair, the modern fashion of *cropping all round* having not yet reached Palermo.

The dress of the women of quality is nearly the same as in England and France ; but their customs and manners quite of a piece with their Italian neighbours. The crime of adultery is so common, that no *Dama* of rank is thought the worse of for being guilty of it.

The

The etiquette of the country is excellently well calculated to facilitate this kind of intercourse, it being reckoned highly ungentle for any lady of distinction to be seen in public with her own husband, or without her admirer or cicisbeo, who also constantly attends her when she goes out in her carriage, either by night or day.

Another thing which tends not a little to promote this sort of commerce, is the stress laid by the priests (in order to keep up the authority of the church) on breaches of human traditions, and mens inventions, such as non-attendance at mass, neglecting an ave-maria, or eating flesh on a Friday or Saturday, rather than on those sins which are immediately against the positive and revealed law of God. Thus

by straining at gnats, little or no difficulty is made in swallowing camels.

And it is well if the great frequency of murders and assassinations, particularly at Naples and Rome*, may not in some measure be owing to the same cause, though the want of police and energy in the laws, and the commutation of punishment for money, as well as making the churches an asylum for murderers, may be the principal reasons for so many horrible butcherings in cool blood.

Both at Rome and Naples are hospitals for the stabbed, which are generally full. At Rome there are two, one for the men, another for the wo-

* During the last *holy week* at this place, full forty persons were sent reeking into eternity by the knife and stiletto.

men. Few persons go about without a ffiletto, and though the use of these destructive weapons be prohibited by law, yet they are publicly exposed at the shop windows, and may be bought by all sorts of persons without any questions being asked.

While we were at Rome, the following curious conversation took place between my brother and his Lacquais de Place.

Sir R. H. Francesco, Have there been any persons stabbed to day?

Francesco. Certainly some, but not so many as in the holydays of the last week, or as there will be on Sunday.

Sir R. H. Why so?

Francesco. Because to day is not a festival, and the usual time for stabbing is, when quarrels arise among the

people who are assembled to make merry, and drink together.

But as facts are beyond assertions, I shall here mention a few instances of what happened in our own knowledge during the time we were at Rome and Naples. A few days before our arrival at the latter place, a man's body was found in the street without an head, and I believe it was never known who was the murderer, or the person murdered. Indeed it is most likely no enquiry was ever made. The day after we came thither, Christmas day, two young women, sisters, were both stabbed in coming from mass about six o'clock in the morning. The one died on the spot, the other languished in great agonies for a day or two, and then expired. This deed was done by a sailor in a fit of jealousy.

Not

Not long after this, we saw a poor fellow weltering in his blood at the *Crocelle* door, a house where several English families of distinction lodged. He had been just stabbed by another who had a flight quarrel with him a day or two before, and who, as soon as he had wreaked his revenge, fled to a neighbouring church for refuge. A few days before we left Rome, an English gentleman's coachman happening to have some words with one of the under cooks of the hotel, whilst the carriage was waiting at the door; the fellow ran into the kitchen for his great knife, and instantly flashed him across the belly, so that his bowels came out; after which he wiped the bloody weapon with his apron, and went into the house. The coachman, who was an Italian, was carried to the hospital, but expired the next day. We were

told that he had been stabbed on different occasions at least thirty times before. The assassin, by the activity of the English gentlemen who lodged at the hotel, was apprehended and committed to prison, but so long as he could raise any money, would probably escape the punishment due to his crime.

But to return to Palermo.—The surrounding mountains were this morning covered with snow, and some fell in the town: Thermometer at nine in the morning 40. The almond trees are covered with blossoms, but there is no other appearance of spring, though pease, beans, artichokes, and immense cauliflowers, also excellent brocoli, with heads as large as the cauliflowers, come to perfection in the open fields all the winter.

PALERMO,

PALERMO, *Feb. 5.*

THIS day is commemorated throughout Sicily on account of the dreadful earthquake which destroyed Messina and the places adjacent just eight years ago, by which awful visitation of Providence upwards of 45,000 persons were destroyed. It was sensibly felt here, but did no damage on this side of the island.—The public places are shut up, and one day's humiliation substituted in the place of gaiety and dissipation.

We paid our respects this evening to the viceroy, who received us graciously, but like a sovereign prince, made the motion for us to withdraw; which we were told was his constant custom.

Mr. Tough, who has resided here these ten years, says this is the coldest season he has ever felt in this island.

The

The greatest height of the thermometer, according to his observations, has been 118, and the lowest 43; but yesterday it was 55, and this morning at 36. It must have been still lower without the city, as the small pools were covered with ice.

PALERMO, *Feb. 6.*

It was our intention to have left this place yesterday morning, but we are detained by bad weather, very much against our inclinations, in a most filthy inn, which has, however, the reputation of being the best in the town. We are confined in a small room, without a fire-place, and with one window, much out of repair, almost covered with dirt and cobwebs. The

greater

greater part is occupied by two wretched beds, and the remaining space by three chairs and a table, upon which we eat our meals, which, though by no means calculated to please the epicure or the glutton, are sufficient to satisfy the cravings of hunger. For this apartment, and another not quite so good, we pay full three guineas and an half a week, and near five shillings a-piece for our miserable repast at dinner, servants apart. It was the landlady of this inn that Mr. Brydone has so humourously described in his thirty-first letter : She has been dead some years, but her husband is still alive, and properly calculated to be the turnkey of his own prison. As we purposed returning to Palermo after our intended expedition, we have requested him to take the charge of our cloaths during our absence, which he absolutely refuses

to

to do, unless we will pay the same price for their lodging as for our own; a demand with which we do not choose to comply. Cold, with storms of hail and wind.

FAVOROTTA, *Feb. 7.*

BEFORE I begin any description of our journey into the other parts of this island, it may be proper to premise a few circumstances respecting its general history.

The first inhabitants of this country, were the Lestrygonæ and the Cyclopes, the accounts of which are so mingled with fable, that we have nothing authentic upon record concerning them; the next were the Sicani,

from whence the island was called Sicani, instead of its former name, Trinacria, which was given to it on account of its triangular shape. These people were afterwards confined to the western part of the island. Some Trojans, after the burning of their city, came and settled near them, and built Erix and Egesta; these assumed the name of Elymæi, and were afterwards joined by some inhabitants of Phocis, at their return from the siege of Troy. The Siculi came in great numbers from Italy; and, having gained a considerable victory over the Sicani, confined them to a corner of their island, about three hundred years before the arrival of the Greeks. From them the island was called Sicily. The Phœnicians also spread themselves along the coast, and in the little islands, which border upon it for the convenience of trade; but
after

after the Greeks began to settle there, they retired into the country of the Elymæi, to be near Carthage, and abandoned the rest. The first of the Greeks that crossed over into Sicily, were the Chalcedians of Eubœa, under Theocles, who founded Naxos. This was in the year of the world 3293, and 711 before the birth of Christ. After the Greeks came the Carthaginians, and after them the Romans, who reduced all Sicily to a Roman province. It was afterwards ravaged by the Saracens and the Goths, the latter of whom brought the whole island into their subjection; but it was recovered by the Romans, under Narfes, Anno Christi, 553. As the Roman empire declined, the Saracens recommenced their ravages; but the pope, with the assistance of other Christian powers, again drove them out; in which service,

Tancred the Norman and his twelve sons, having had a great share, part of Naples was given them by the pope. Robert, the son of Tancred, was created duke of Apulia and Calabria, by the German emperor; and Roger, the son of Robert, was made king of the two Sicilies, viz. Naples and Sicily. The heirs of Tancred enjoyed this crown until the year 1166, when, happening to disoblige the pope, he introduced the earl of Anjou and the French, and his posterity were kings of Naples and Sicily, until the Spaniards dispossessed them of it, about the year 1504. The Spaniards held the dominion till 1707, when they were driven from thence by the Imperialists; and at the peace of Utrecht, this island was allotted to the duke of Savoy, with the title of king. The Spaniards invaded it in 1718, but were forced to abandon it again, and
then

then it was conferred on the emperor Charles the VIth, who held it till the year 1735, when the Imperialists were driven out of this island, and of all their Italian dominions, and Don Carlos, the king of Spain's eldest son, by the princess of Parma, his second queen, was advanced to the throne of the two Sicilies, which were confirmed to him by a subsequent peace, on condition of his relinquishing Milan, Parma, and all the rest of the emperor's Italian dominions, which the Spaniards and French had taken from him in that war, and Don Carlos, succeeding his brother Ferdinand the VIth, as king of Spain, Ferdinand his third son, is now king of the two Sicilies.

After having had a most alarming description of the roads, inns, and manner of travelling in this country,
and

and after having been informed of desperate gangs of robbers, that infect every part of the island, we set out from Palermo at half past eight this morning, to prove the truth or falsehood of the relations that had been given us. The equipage provided for my brother and myself, is called a *litiga*, which is a sort of sedan coach, or *vis-à-vis*, supported by two poles, and carried by mules. This *litiga*, or double sedan, has no glass in the windows, but thick curtains in case of rain, neither has it any doors, but you are lifted in and out through the windows, by the men holding a little board for you to put your foot on. The sides are painted with superstitious devices, to secure you from dangers: among these, the virgin and child, and the souls in purgatory, are seldom omitted.

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The like is on all their boats, particularly on what are called, the *sproronara*.

My nephew and our servants are furnished with good horses; three or four other men accompany us to take care of the beasts, and we have, besides, a soldier for our guard, with a gun and cutlass, so that we conceive ourselves able to make a pretty strong resistance in case of an attack. For the first seven miles, we travelled upon an excellent carriage road, over the plain, which is ornamented with country houses and gardens, corn fields, now beautifully green, groves of exceeding fine olives, and stately orange and lemon trees, loaded with fine fruit, and some other garden trees, most of which are in blossom, particularly almonds, plumbs, and peaches. We next passed over a very rugged road, under
rocks

rocks by the sea-side, and by hedges of large aloes, many of which had flowered last year. The stems of several more were cut down, and used for gate-posts and other purposes. This plant, as also the Indian fig, are both extremely hardy, and will flourish on the tops of walls, on the sides of rocks and mountains, and even in the most barren sand. The manner of making hedges, is by sticking a single leaf of the Indian fig into the ground, which soon takes root, and grows to a great size; when old, it has a bark formed round it, consisting of its first leaves, grown hard and become brown. This is perhaps the only tree or shrub known that is raised by the leaves, which grow one out of another for some years before it has any stem or scarcely any root.

Our whole day's journey has been twenty-two miles, and we are now at a small town consisting of six or seven wide parallel streets, the houses of which are all poor, and only one story high. Such is our inn, which, to our astonishment, is perfectly clean, and contains three beds, upon which we may venture to sleep, without apprehensions. Besides a most admirable arrangement of crockery ware, the walls are ornamented with images, crucifixes, and pictures of saints; and, as a farther proof of the piety of the two good old women that keep the house, there is a figure of a little waxen virgin just delivered, with the infant Jesus lying by her, carefully preserved in a glass case; though this figure of the virgin lies prostrate, kicking up the legs in no very decent manner, yet we should certainly have been thought highly pro-

profane, had we made any animadversions on it. The windows are not glazed, and we have no other defence against the cold, which is at present pretty severe, but wooden shutters, which, for the advantage of the light, we keep open. There is no food of any kind in the house, excepting some that we brought with us from Palermo, and which we are now going to dress ourselves, over a charcoal brazier in the middle of the room. Frosty morning. Bright cool day.

CASTELL A MARE, *Feb. 8.*

WE set out this morning in the same style as yesterday, and continuing our route to the westward, coasted a very fine bay, twenty-two miles to this

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place. The country is well cultivated, producing large groves of olives, some plantations of the manna tree, from whence the manna is extracted by making incisions in the bark; it issues from the wound as a thick whitish liquor, which soon hardens in the sun, when it is carefully taken off and gathered into boxes. The usual time of procuring it is the month of August, when the heat is most violent. There is besides a great deal of corn, and a few vineyards. Some land is left for pasturage, in which are fed great numbers of sheep, goats, and horned cattle. The sheep and goats are black and white, or white entirely, with long silky hair. The horned cattle, particularly the oxen, are small, of the same reddish brown as those in England, and have remarkably large horns, stand-

standing more upright than the horns of these animals usually do.

This is a poor little town, situated at the foot of an high, rocky mountain, the upper part of which is barren, but the lower is cultivated with corn, and forms a beautiful lawn, on which are some fine spreading evergreens.

Travellers must expect great difficulties. We now experience the miseries of visiting a country where roads and inns are hardly known. We are got into an house it is true, but it is filthy in the extreme, and we are again exposed to the severities of a cold air issuing through unglazed windows, and cracks and crevices in every quarter of the shattered edifice. Even here, however, we are not without luxuries, as we are going to sup upon a turtle

which we purchased this morning for twenty pence. There are many of these animals in the Sicilian seas, but as the English method of cooking calipash and calipee is unknown, their flesh is not much esteemed. Cool and cloudy.

HOVEL, 10th.

WE laid ourselves down last night upon mattraffes of straw as hard as boards, and endeavoured to take some repose after the fatigues of the day; but our first efforts to sleep were interrupted by people walking backwards and forwards through the room, and our second, by legions of fleas, who, as soon as we grew warm, crawled about us in every direction, and kept

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as in a state of continual restlessness till the happy hour of rising. The woman of this house disposed of a young child in a way that must be very convenient to poor people with large families; viz. by laying it in a cloth, and suspending it by four cords to the *cieling*, I should say the *roof*, which was composed of canes laid across the beams.

We found ourselves the spectacle of the place, and were surrounded at night by some well-drest people, who ought to have had more politeness, and in the morning by the fishermen of the town, in whose baskets were some small fish, variegated with the most beautiful colours; one among them, called *Il pesce del re*, or, the king's fish, was of a bright green and gold, with a zig-zag stripe of red down each side.

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We set out again this morning for Segesta, distant nine miles, and travelled on a very bad, stony road, over mountains on which are some groves of olives, manna trees, and common figs, and from whence we had a view of an extensive vale cultivated with corn, but thinly inhabited.

The city of Segesta was founded by the Trojans, as has been already observed. It was by them called Egesta, but the Romans, disliking so unpropitious a name, (Egesta signifying want or poverty) afterwards changed it to that which it now bears. A dispute between the people of this city and their neighbours, the Selinuntians, occasioned one of the most memorable wars that was ever waged in Sicily. The territories of the two cities were divided by a river, which the Selinuntians

tians crossed, and possessed themselves of the lands lying next to it. Upon this the Egestans took up arms, and repulsed the invaders, who shortly afterwards returned with an army and laid waste the whole country. The Egestans again armed themselves in their own defence, but were entirely defeated, and forced to shelter themselves within their walls. In this condition they sent ambassadors to solicit succours from Agrigentum, Syracuse, and even Carthage; but these embassies proving unsuccessful, they implored the assistance of the Athenians, promising, that they, in their turn, would help them to the utmost of their power, whenever they should stand in need of their assistance. They represented, among other things, that should they be abandoned, the Syracusans, by whom the inhabitants of Selinus were assisted,

assisted, would seize their city as they had done that of Leontium, and make themselves masters of the whole island. The Athenians, who had long waited for an opportunity of interfering in the affairs of Sicily, agreed to the proposals. However, they thought it advisable first to send deputies into Sicily, to inquire into the state of the island, and particularly of the Egestans, who had promised to pay all the troops that should be sent to their assistance. Upon the arrival of the ambassadors, the Egestans, having borrowed from the neighbouring nations a great number of gold and silver vases, made a vain shew of them, saying, they had wealth sufficient to defray the whole charges of the war. The Athenians, deceived by these appearances, sent a fleet to Sicily, under the command of Alcibiades, Nicias, and Lamachus. Up-
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on their arrival at Rhegium, they sent some ships to cruize off the coast of Sicily, in order to find out a proper and convenient place for landing the troops, and at the same time to know what treasure the Egestans could contribute towards carrying on the war which had been undertaken for their sake. These, on their return, acquainted the generals, that the Egestans had imposed upon them, and abused their credulity, since they were a poor indigent people, and had only thirty talents in the public treasury. However disconcerted the Athenian generals were at this intelligence, they resolved not to return ingloriously to their own country, but sailed for Sicily, and took Catania by surprize; they soon after advanced towards Syracuse, against which they carried on a long and bloody war, with various successes,

cess, till at last victory declared in favor of the Syracusans, some particulars of which I shall mention in my account of that celebrated city.

All that now remains of Segesta, is one Doric temple, consisting of thirty-six pillars; two rows of fourteen each from the length, and two of six the breadth. Each pillar is composed of several stones, laid like mill-stones upon one another. They are all in their original state of perfection, except three or four, which were repaired in 1781 at the king's expence, as appears by an inscription of white marble placed in front of the building, though in the opinion of most this modern reparation had better have been let alone, as well as what has been done in the same way at Pompeia; near Naples.

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But his Sicilian majesty has certainly a much better taste for macaroni, which he devours in vast quantities, even with the *lazaroni*, or common people, than he has for antiquities or improvements.

Next to eating macaroni, the favourite amusements of the Neapolitan monarch are hunting and shooting; though the bliss he obtains from the latter, must be of a very uncommon kind, as will be evident from the manner in which his majesty pursues, or rather murders his game.

If the object of the royal vengeance be pheasants, he has three or four hundred of these poor animals, which are as tame as barn-door fowls, (particularly at his hunting-seat in the little island of Procita) confined within a
small

small inclosed compafs, himfelf being feated in an alcove above, by the front of which the *chaffeurs* drive the birds one after another, without a minute's delay, whilft his majefty fires at them as faft as he can difcharge his pieces, and when he is tired of the excellent fport, boafts that he has killed with his own hand two or three hundred pheafants in an hour's time. This intelligence we got from the King's own *garde de chaffe* on the fpot at Procita.

That the late king had precifely the fame *penchant* for the fports of the field with his prefent majefty, and that he at leaft paid as much attention to the prefervation of his game, the following anecdote will fully evince.

Not many years ago he ordered all the cats in the ifland of Procita to be
deftrayed,

destroyed, under the idea that they killed his pheasants; this bloody sentence was executed with rigor, but the inhabitants soon became sensible of its bad effects, for the rats and mice multiplied to such a degree, that the whole produce of the island was in danger, and the former even attacked the children in their cradles. A petition was presented to the king, setting forth the grievance, to which his majesty immediately gave ear, and made another decree in favour of the cats, who soon did their duty so well, that though the pheasants do not appear at all diminished, there are few rats to be seen.

This island of Procita was once part of a Grecian colony, and to this day all the women and girls wear the ancient Grecian dress, which is very singular and becoming. At our request two or

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three females adorned themselves in their holyday cloaths. We had beds in the palace, but alas! alas! we had quite too many bedfellows of the hopping and creeping kind, *pidocchi*, *cimici*, & *pulci da vero*. When *la caccia de cinghiale*, or hunting and shooting the wild boar is the diversion his Majesty fixes on, and which he usually prefers to all others, he then sometimes goes to Astroni, near Naples, where in the crater of an extinct volcano, three miles in circumference, but which is now filled with noble timber trees, are several hundreds of those animals, which flock in droves to be fed at the keeper's whistle, though we were obliged to conceal ourselves behind a wall to prevent their seeing us. This wall, however, which was so friendly to our curiosity, is very inimical to the poor boars, as the king stations himself

self behind it in order to shoot them, and will sometimes massacre fifty or an hundred in a day. He then registers his feats in a book, mentioning both the number and the size of the boars he has killed with his own hand. As a proof of this king's extraordinary piety, a newspaper would say *Piety extraordinary*, when madness was in his kennels, he made the poor quadrupeds hear mass, put his hand into their mouths, and said he was certain no hurt could then befall him or them. This we had from one who is honoured with his particular friendship and attention,

What exquisite taste his majesty has for the fine arts, evidently appears by the paintings in his grand palace at Caserta, the apartments of which are adorned with pictures of his different sea-ports, and representations of his

hunting the wild boars, in most of which the king himself makes the principal figure. The royal orders are, that the colors must be all bright and glaring, without any shade or softening whatever. But as this mandate causes some of the state rooms to look as if they were hung with shew-boards for a puppet-shew, so it sadly fetters the genius of that very able artist Mr. Hackert, who has the honor of being the king's first painter.

While I am relating these anecdotes of the king of Naples, I must not forget to add that he is very popular in his own capital, is quite adored and idolized by the *lazaroni*, or common people, who, whenever he has been absent, go out by thousands to draw his carriage, and to shout his welcome return, and that both he and his queen

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are exceedingly polite and condescending to strangers.

My long digression has brought me so far back to Naples and its environs, that I had almost forgotten I was visiting the famous Doric temple of Segesta; I therefore hasten back to that temple, the dimensions of which I had not an opportunity of examining with any degree of accuracy, as an heavy rain commenced just upon our arrival, and obliged us to take shelter for more than two hours in a miserable hovel. As it was at the same time very cold, we lighted a fire on the floor, the smoke of which almost suffocated us; however, to make us amends, the shepherd of the hut regaled us with curds and whey made of goats and sheeps milk. Not being very well contented with our quarters, we

set out again in the rain, which, however, ceased before we arrived at the bottom of the mountain, so that we flattered ourselves with the hopes of getting a better lodging than could be obtained at Castell à Mare. But we soon found a very unexpected difficulty. A brook, which three hours before was but a very insignificant stream, was now become impassable. We would gladly have gone to Alcamo, a town only a few miles distant, where we knew there was a good inn, but our guides soon cut that scheme short, by telling us it lay on the other side of the water. Under their direction we went to another hut about half a mile off, which was the dwelling of an honest farmer, who was gone out, and had fastened the door, which they broke open without the least ceremony. This habitation is rather better than that
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upon the top of the hill, and contains two apartments, one of which we nearly enjoy to ourselves, having no other company than our guard and his favorite horse. In an hour's time the rain began again, and has continued all night, with an high wind. A large heap of reeds laid in one corner of the place has afforded us something like a bed, in which we have not indeed been infested with the same kind of vermin as at Castell à Mare, but with rats, immense wasps, and spiders in abundance *. As a defence against the cold,

* Though there are large spiders in Sicily of an horrible appearance, having legs all round their bodies, yet I believe there are none of that particular quality which are found near Tarentum, and from thence called tarantula; the bite of which is supposed to be cured by music and dancing. As in our passage through Calabria we were at no great distance from Tarentum, we made some inquiries about this species of spider, the poison of which is almost generally believed in those parts to be extracted

cold, a fire upon the floor was kept burning all night, and our benevolent guard, wishing us to keep ourselves warm within as well as without, pressed us repeatedly to drink wine, which he drew from the farmer's casks

or charmed away by this remedy, which is often tried by the country people, when they really are, or when they fancy themselves bitten by these animals, and I have no doubt usually proves successful through the force of imagination, and the violent exercise and profuse sweats attending these dancings, which are continued for several hours without interruption, and this usually in the midst of summer, as the tarantula is said to bite worse in the harvest months, when the common people are working in the fields, and not aware of the attack.

As I am now mentioning Tarentum, it may not be out of the way to observe that the breed of fine snow-white sheep, so celebrated by the ancient poets for their excellence, and for being washed in the river Galefus, now no longer exists. On the contrary they are almost all black; what may have been the cause of this great change from one color to its direct opposite, is not perhaps very easy to determine. The notion there prevalent, that it is owing to all the white sheep being poisoned by eating a certain herb which grows in the neighborhood, and which yet does no injury to the black sheep, is not a very probable one.

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as often as he thought proper. It is now seven in the morning, and I perceive very little prospect of passing the brook to day. Thank God we none of us yet suffer from cold or fatigue, but dread the thought of passing another night in this miserable situation,

PALERMO, *Feb.* 12.

ABOUT half past seven yesterday morning a messenger was sent to see if the waters were abated, who brought word back that the river was full six feet deep; it was consequently impossible for our carriage, not raised more than three feet from the ground, to pass. It still rained, though the violence of the storm was abated; and I began to be seriously afraid of a second

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or more engagements with the Sicilian rats, wasps and spiders, which no doubt so much company, and the large fire we had kept burning all night on the floor, had roused from their different quarters. As all our stock of bread and meat was exhausted, and as nothing remained but a few little fish, which we brought with us from Castell à Mare, we dispatched a messenger in quest of food. He returned about eleven with some bread and a live kid, the latter of which we suppose he stole; we could not consent to the death of the poor animal, nor had we any occasion for it, as we were then diverted from our cookery by the agreeable intelligence that the brook was passable; we therefore set out as soon as possible, and got across without any difficulty. In returning over the mountains we met with such violent storms

storms of hail and rain, that our muleteers were very desirous of returning to Castell à Mare, but we, willing to get back to Palermo without further hindrance, insisted upon going on. They complied with reluctance, alledging there would be no boat at a ferry about a mile distant. They said true; however, by fair words and large promises, we prevailed upon the ferryman to prepare his vessel, and began to flatter ourselves that all the difficulties of the journey were over, when he greatly damped our spirits by affirming, in a very positive manner, that we should not be able to proceed much farther without finding other rivers, which he was sure would impede our passage. While we were holding a consultation upon the best mode of proceeding, we spied a man and horse on the other side. The man told us

he had passed the rivers, and as the rain then ceased, we ventured to pursue our journey, and arrived in safety at a small village eight miles from Castell à Mare, where the conductors of ourselves and cattle determined we should pass the night. We found one little room, tolerably clean, at least not exceedingly filthy, and well covered, but with an open window, like all the rest in Sicily. It contained one bed, which, though pretty large, could not conveniently accommodate us all at a time, so that we were obliged to repose ourselves by turns; unfortunately for us the man of the house was very deaf, and his wife, who did the honors, bawled so loud, that we were almost stunned. We met here with some very rich luscious wine, which our guards drank off as if it were small-beer, though sickness and head-

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ach were the effects of their indulgence.

As soon as day appeared, we set out again, dined with the clean women at Favorotta, and came hither this evening, hoping to go soon and comfortably to bed, having been four nights without undressing. Our banker had promised to use his endeavours to procure us a lodging, but had none in readiness; our old apartments were occupied, and we were told at two other inns that there was no room for us. After much solicitation and inquiry, we have at length obtained one apartment at what in Sicily may be called a good inn, and which is at least much better than our last, kept by a noisy Frenchwoman, who seems very sorry that it is not in her power to accommodate us better. An hour and half ago we ordered supper

per to be got ready with all possible expedition, but do not yet see the least preparation for it. Cold and windy.

PALERMO, *Feb. 13.*

AFTER waiting four hours for supper last night, and then understanding that the old cock was not boil'd half tender, and that its companion on the spit was not put down to roast, we went to bed not very well pleased with our new inn. The landlady is between fifty and sixty years of age, very plain, and immensely fat, and as she dresses in a garment once white, but now abominably dirty, without stays, and her clotted hair hangs over her eyes like the snakes of a Medusa's head, she is not one of the most engaging

gaging figures in the world. She is very vociferous, full of action, and extremely indelicate. Last night we missed a bottle of Syracuse wine, which she owned having drank ; it had the effect that might be expected, and one of our servants, who had the audacity to contradict her, received so severe a scolding from the enraged lady, that he thought it most prudent to allow she was perfectly in the right. She was very sick all night, and this morning made an apology for her behavior, acknowledging, “ She was really so drunk that she did not know what she did.” This sweet creature is not without a partner ; he is a good looking young man, about twenty-three, and was, at the time of *her* proposal, (for it originated entirely from the lady) a lay-brother in a convent. “ To own the truth (said she) I fell in
“ love

“ love with him, and I married him.” In our apartment there is a picture of this lovely lady, whose charms are set off to the best advantage. Her head is dressed high, with a feather and a blue bandeau; at one corner of the mouth, which expresses an *agreeable* smile, is a little black patch. The breast is bare, and the waist drawn into as small a compass as is consistent with the other parts, though the painter has very judiciously expressed the effects of tight lacing by the exaltation of certain protuberances above the stays. In her right hand, which is held up with an elegant turn of the little finger, she holds a full blown rose, intended, no doubt, as the just emblem of her own charms.

The number of inhabitants in this city, is computed at 320,000, which
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is so immense, compared with the size of the place, that I could not have credited it, unless I had heard it from the mouth of several well informed persons, and there is little doubt, but that this number would still encrease, if there were roads to communicate with the other parts of the island, and if the weight of taxes, under which the people groan, did not occasion the almost total abolition of trade.

The accounts we have had of the banditti, are not void of foundation, though they are by far, less numerous than formerly, many having been dispersed and executed within a few years. Such of them as surrender themselves voluntarily, are pardoned, upon condition of enlisting in the king's service. There are many who have embraced the proposal, and these are

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the *campieri*, or guards, that attend upon travellers. They are acquainted with all the banditti of the island, and are always faithful to those they take the charge of, for though they will rob, and even murder others, their employers may rest perfectly secure, under their protection, as they pique themselves on being MEN OF STRICT HONOR. Our guard, who is a fine stout young man, is one of the foregoing description, and though he made free with the farmer's wine, the poor kid, and some few things besides, at the places where we stopt, we found him to us, honest, civil, and good humoured, as well as exceedingly useful, in every respect. There is a convent of noble monks, seven miles from this city, who keep sixteen of these fellows, in constant pay, and are attended by one or more of them in all their excursions.

fions. When a robber is taken, he is brought into town mounted upon a mule, and guarded by these foldiers, who fire guns as they pafs through the ftreets, while the criminal, having his head crowned with flowers, is made a fpectacle to the people. Common criminals fuffer death, by hanging, and are executed naked. People of rank are beheaded. The power of the ax does not depend upon the ftrength of the executioner, but the fteel or iron part is fixed on a frame, and, being made to fall with great force, fevers the head from the body in a moment. The laft perfon that fuffered in that way, was a page of the viceroy, who committed murder in the palace. He had an intrigue with another man's wife, and, finding the hufband too much in the way, invited him one evening to drink a difh of coffee with him. As foon as

he came in, the page locked the door, murdered his guest by stabbing him in sixteen places, and then went out, leaving the corpse locked up in his room. The murderer continued about the town, but being missed in his place, at the palace, enquiry was made after him, and his room door forced open, four days after the commission of the fact, when the corpse was found in a state of putrefaction. He was soon after taken, and met with the punishment which his crime deserved. I am sorry to remark, that he is not the only person of some note in this city, chargeable with the crime of murder. Last year, many people in this town and neighborhood, died in a sudden and extraordinary manner; they were generally seized with vomiting, and expired in a few hours. The cause of their death was discovered in the following manner. A young woman
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man went to an officer of justice, to make some complaints concerning her husband; he desired her to be reconciled, and refused to proceed against him, upon which, she turned away in a rage, muttering, that she knew how to be revenged. The magistrate paid attention to what she said, and gave orders for her being arrested; when, upon strict enquiry concerning the meaning of her words, she confessed, that it was her intention to poison her husband, by purchasing a bottle of vinegar from an old woman, who prepared it for that purpose. In order to ascertain the truth of this story, another woman was sent to the old jade, to demand some of the same vinegar, which was sold for about ten-pence a bottle. "What do you want with it?" said the vender, "Why," (replied the other) "I have a very bad husband, and I

“ want to get rid of him.” Hereupon, the old woman, seventy-two years of age, produced the fatal dose, upon which she was immediately seized, and conducted to prison, where she confessed, that she had sold forty-five or forty-six bottles. Many people were taken up, but as upon further enquiry it was discovered that several of the nobility had been purchasers, the affair was dropt, and the old woman alone suffered death. Fair and cool.

Feb. 14.

THE plain on which Palermo stands, extends eight or nine miles, both to the east and west, behind two great rocky mountains, which are placed like bastions upon the two extremities of an
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handsome bay. We have been this morning on the eastern side, called La Bagaria, where several of the nobility have their country seats *. The palace of Palagonia is one of the most curious, and was formerly much more so, when in the possession of a *principe* of that name, who died a few years ago. Some specimens of his taste however, still remain, particularly a large collection of statues, fixed upon the walls of some low buildings, that form a semicircular court behind his house; these have, at least, an air of novelty, to recommend them to the curious traveller, who in all the fine collections of antiques, preserved at

* It may almost be said, without deviating from the strictest truth, that the houses in this neighbourhood are formed of shells, as the quarries from whence the materials for building are collected, contain an immense quantity of minute fossils consolidated together, with very few stony particles in proportion to the general mass.

Rome, and other cities in Italy, can discover none like those, that display the extraordinary genius of this illustrious and whimsical Sicilian. They are hewn by the hand of a modern mason, into the shape of men and women, some playing on fiddles, flutes, bass-viol, and some with big bellies, wooden legs, enormous heads, and distorted countenances. Other figures are still more singular. An ass's head (some may say, no uncommon thing) upon a man's shoulders, a bird's neck upon a lady's waist, with almost every other species of monster, that it is possible to conceive. These are crowded together, as close as they can stand, and seem much better calculated to support the building upon which they are erected, than the building them. The inside of the palace is commodious, but not magnificent, and has been almost

almost as whimsical as the outside. The remains of the ancient taste, appear in an apartment fitted up in the Chinese style, with china pots, little images, pieces of different coloured glass and gilded ornaments, which altogether have not a bad effect. The ceiling is coved, and covered over with looking-glasses. In another apartment are marble figures of the prince, princess, and others of the family, placed in compartments of the wall, in long flowing wigs and laced ruffles. About a quarter of a mile distant, is the palace of another noble Sicilian, fitted up in an elegant style, and is upon the whole, a very comfortable habitation. In the compartments of one of the rooms, the prints given in Captain Cook's Voyages, are copied in colors, and in an adjoining apartment, is the bust of that navigator, as also one of Newton. Before
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the house is a fine terrace commanding a delightful prospect, both of sea and land, and about one hundred yards higher, a very singular rock, not unlike those painted in India papers, ornamented with fruit trees, and Indian figs. On the top is a heavy temple, to which there is a road, broad enough for two carriages to pass, fenced by a maffy wall. The gardens are all in the French style, only, if possible, more formal. Bright and cool.

PALERMO, *Feb.* 15,

HAVING obtained a recommendation from the viceroy, to the monks of St. Martino, we were conducted this morning, by one of the brethren and Mr. Tough to the convent. It is seven
miles

miles from the town, in a very elevated situation facing the north, and backed by a mountain, now covered with snow. None but noblemen's sons are made members of the fraternity; they are sent thither young for education, and at the expiration of seven years, are obliged either to turn monks, or knights of Malta, who, as well as those that lead a monastic life, make a vow of chastity. The magnificence of the convent is much superior to any thing of the kind I have yet seen; it has lately been rebuilt, and 159,000 crowns expended upon it, to which many more must be added for the completion of the plan. The entrance is through an hall, supported by marble pillars, from whence on the right hand, goes a very spacious and magnificent double stair-case, of Sicilian marble, leading to the apartments of the superior, the walls of which

which are most elegantly painted in fresco. The galleries leading to the different chambers appear as long as the sides of the Bodleian library at Oxford. At the end of one of them, a fountain half enclosed with laurels has a pleasing effect. The library is an handsome room, supported by Corinthian pillars, made of walnut-tree, finely polished. Among the books, I observed the works of Hubs, Beza, Melancthon, and Calvin, and on the next shelf, those of Crellius and Socinus. In a small room, denominated the museum, are several curiosities, viz. armour of the Saracens, Sicilian coins, Gothic pictures, Grecian earthenware, particularly a large dish, with battles drawn in different compartments, fossils, a stuffed crocodile, about six feet long, taken in the island, monsters, manuscripts, &c. Among the manuscripts is one in the

Morocco language containing an account, that the Saracens, upon coming into this island, first took possession of the convent of Saint Martino, and killed thirty of the monks. There are only ten belonging to the fraternity at present, and those are divided into two parties, hating each other most cordially; and rich as they are, being ready to devour one another on account of pelf and power. Owing to these animosities all the workmen have been dismissed from the convent.

AFTER having seen every thing worthy of notice, we sat down to a very elegant dinner*, consisting of two courses

* First course. A tureen at top and bottom, containing, in one, gravy soup, in the other, macaroni and cheese. On one side bouilli, on the opposite woodcock pye. At the four corners were paties, and different made dishes, chiefly in pastry. Second course. Red mullets,

courses and a desert, with a frame of ornamental china, adorned with flowers, down the middle of the table, and were plentifully served with wine by the chief butler, who always held the bottle in his hand, and replenished our glasses whenever we did but sip at their contents. Four monks, one stranger, and ourselves sat down to dinner, but only two of the monks eat any thing; the two others (Mr. Tough told us) had dined before, and would not eat with us because we were not recommended to their party. When they have no company, the rules of the convent oblige them to dine together,

mullets, roast fowls, rasoies, a pudding made of pistachio nuts, which grow in great plenty in this island, &c. &c. &c. A desert followed of seventeen things, among which were two plates with thin slices of raw bacon, one of anchovies, one of cheese, one of fennel, and one of celery; afterwards came ices, and then coffee. So much for the mortification and self-denial of our noble religionists.

and the rules of envy, hatred and malice which these holy brothers have established, oblige them to keep their separate places, and never to converse together. The monk that conducted us, we discovered to be a brother mason, but we were desired not to mention it at the convent, as the opposite party were not of that fraternity. We observed one waiting at table in a monk's habit, and, till we heard his history, felt shocked at being serv'd by a person of so much dignity. He had been a merchant, was married, and had several children; a dissolute life caused him to fail in business: His creditors were importunate, and the necessities of his family very pressing; to avoid both he took shelter in this convent, was admitted as a lay-brother, and lives here unmolested by the creditors, and insensible to the cries of his afflicted

afflicted family. It is not to be supposed that prayers and masses form the sole employment in this religious house; some recreations are allowed, such as billiards, shooting, and the like. The studious (though I believe there is only *one* of that description at present) amuse themselves in the library: The rest are completely ignorant, and notwithstanding their profession, disbelieve every article of revelation. About a month ago an opera girl, dress'd in man's cloaths, got admission into the convent, and came in with four men. The porter observing only four go out, asked where their companion was; they said he was coming, but as there was no appearance of him for some time, the porter began to entertain suspicions; he therefore gave an alarm, and after some search, the lady was found in a room below stairs, belonging

to

to one of the servants. The man said he did not know who it was that came in, and all the monks of course denied having any knowledge of the affair. Bright and cold, which we felt very severely, being obliged to sit upon Dutch tiles, without a fire, and with the windows and doors wide open. Therm. at sun rise, 43.

PALERMO, *Feb.* 16.

I took a very laborious walk this morning to the top of Monte Pelegri-
no, the bastion on the west. Near the
summit were found the bones of Saint
Rosalia, the tutelary saint of Palermo,
who is honored every year with one
of the most splendid festivals in all the
Roman Catholic countries. She was (as
tradition and Mr. Brydone inform us)

G daughter

daughter of William the Good, and retired to this mountain in the fifteenth year of her age, to spend the remainder of her life in solitude and devotion. She soon after disappeared, and it was supposed that she had been translated to heaven, till in the year 1624, four hundred and sixty-five years afterwards, during the time of a plague, it was revealed to an holy man, in a vision, that the saint's bones were lying in a cave, and that if they were taken up, and carried in procession thrice round the walls of the city, they should be delivered from the plague. At first little attention was paid to this account, but as the holy man persisted in his story, search was made, the bones found, and the city delivered from its calamity. For the sake of these sacred bones, a road has been made, with vast labor, up the mountain,

tain, which is of the hardest lime stone rock, and just not perpendicular. It is, with great propriety, called *La Scala*, or the ladder; and as the stones are quite destitute of soil, the ascent is very dangerous as well as difficult. The prospect from the top is beautiful and extensive.

With the assistance of our indefatigably kind friend, Mr. Tough, we have this day made a bargain for a litiga and three saddle horses, besides one for our guard, and another for our baggage, to take us to Messina. The terms of the agreement have been drawn up by a public notary, and signed by each party. Bright and mild. N. E. Therm. at sun rise, 43.

TERMINI, *Feb. 17.*

HAVING already had a specimen of Sicilian accommodations in our journey to Segesta, and understanding that we were not likely to meet with much better fare in our road to Messina, we have provided ourselves with such additional articles as our absolute necessities require, and as the real wants of man are but few, an inventory of our furniture would make but a very mean figure in one of Christie's catalogues. It is as follows :

Kitchen.—A gridiron, ditto smaller, two stewpans, a toasting-fork, three knives, forks, and spoons, a tea-kettle, a chocolate-pot.

China-closet.—A tea-pot, three cups, two glassess.

Bed-chamber.—Three bags, a mat-trass, one pair of sheets, one rug.

Add to this a piece of Irish beef, two
tongues,

tongues, some Worcestershire perry, and a canister of hyson tea, with which we have been supplied by the liberality of Mr. Tough.

Having sent our litiga a little before us, we set out from Palermo in an open coach, which brought us as far as Bagaria, when we took to our litiga and saddle horses, since which we have travelled at the foot of mountains, by the sea side, and on a very good carriage road, to this town, which, though a poor place, is the largest I have seen next to Palermo, and seems to be almost entirely occupied by shoe-makers. In the neighbouring gardens are some very fine orange and lemon trees, but the country in general, through which we have past to-day, is uncultivated; and though the mountains are wild and rocky, yet, being almost entirely

destitute of wood, they afford few picturesque scenes.

For Sicily we have found a tolerable inn, and our room has got a window. The provisions are unpacked, and the implements of cookery handled. A frying-pan has been also wanted, and application made for one now hanging up in our landlord's kitchen. But here we have experienced the mortification of an absolute refusal; (it is meagre day) and this said frying-pan having been set apart for the purpose of dressing fish, must not be contaminated with the touch of any other kind of meat.

About two years ago a company of merchants in this town established a Society, for the purpose of robbing and murdering, most of whom have been

been taken up and hanged. Mr. Tough supped with one of them at this place, and as the gentleman appeared to be exceedingly agitated, frequently going out of the room, and returning again, Mr. T. is now persuaded, that he was then engaged in his bloody occupation, and perhaps forming some plan to take away his (Mr. T.'s) life. That person is among the executed. Mr. T. advised us to place our guards and servants, with fire-arms, at our chamber door whilst we slept, but this precaution we thought unnecessary, for we apprehended no danger, and happily found none. A quarrel took place as we came along, between our guide and a fisherman, and I verily believe the former would have shot the latter, if his horse had not run away with him in the critical moment that his

passion was at its height: for he primed, cocked, and presented his gun, but having loosed his horse's bridle, the beast set off, and did not give him time to discharge it. Warm. Thin clouds. S. E.

CEFALU, *Feb. 18.*

WE have had another day's journey of twenty-four miles. The carriage road ends at Termini, though it has been marked out a few leagues farther. We continued near the sea, and forded four rivers, two of which were pretty considerable, without any interesting prospect, till we came within five miles of this town; when we found the mountains cultivated to their summits with large olives, feathering or rather bending

bending to the ground, intermixed with extensive plantations of the manna ash, and some fruit trees in full blossom. The road is rough and stony, over rocky mounds covered with evergreen shrubs, and ornamented with a few neat houses. This is a small town, consisting of several narrow dirty streets, situated at the foot of a great rock, upon which is erected a castle, only accessible by a very narrow pass, where it is defended by a strong wall; I should apprehend that the place obtained its name from the Greek word *Κεφαλή*, which signifies a head or promontory. Our inn is tolerably clean, but it is without windows, without food, and without a single article of kitchen furniture; nevertheless over the door is written *Posata & Taverna*, Inn and Tavern. Mild, partly cloudy, and one slight shower. S.E. and N.W.

STEFANO,

STEFANO, *Feb. 19.*

SUCH roads by such precipices I hope never to go again in any kind of vehicle. We were sometimes upon the sea-shore among great loose stones, and sometimes in narrow paths, oftener in no paths at all, on the sides of steep mountains, where one false step would probably have tumbled us down into the vast ocean beneath us. From these altitudes the Lipari Islands presented themselves to view, particularly Stromboli, in which is a volcano that burns continually. It appears to us like a great cone, with a crater at the top, from whence we saw immense columns of smoke ascending. These islands ship off annually 7000 barrels of raisins, and a large quantity of currants, which are made from a small black grape. At the distance of eighteen miles

miles from Cefalu we ftopt to dine at a paltry village, and as our *falle a manger* was expofed to public view, the country people had an opportunity, which they readily embraced, of feeing the lions, and how Englifhmen eat and drink. We had only fix miles further to compleat our day's journey, and are now at another little town. Here we flattered ourfelves with hopes of better accommodations, and expected the form of a vifit from the governor, to whom a letter had been written from Cefalu, praying him to procure us three beds. He has fo far complied with our request, as to order the beft that the hole called an inn can furnifh, to be got in readinefs; but thefe are fo bad, that we fhall order our bags to be filled with ftraw, and as ufual, lay down in our cloaths. The evening is cold, and I could enjoy a fire; but in-
 ftead

stead of this, till we can purchase a little wood or charcoal, I am obliged to sit at an open window, in a strong current of air that blows my papers all about. Not one article of furniture of any kind in the house, except cobweb hangings, much less any thing to eat or drink, and no inhabitants but rats, mice, spiders, fleas, with some *et cetera*; the landlord and landlady, if such there be, living elsewhere.

BROLO, *Feb.* 20.

A VARIETY of causes contributed to make us rejoice at the thoughts of leaving Stefano. The dogs barked incessantly for some hours, the cocks crowed, the asses brayed, and about midnight there was a violent cry of murder

murder just under our window. Our Italian servant answered the call, upon which the complainant ran away, and in the morning nobody could tell what had happened. Having no covering but a thin great coat, and a dressing gown about my legs, I lay cold and sleepless till four o'clock in the morning, when I jumped up from my straw mattresses, ready dressed for the journey of the present day. Though commanded by our muleteers to rise so early, we did not set out till half past six, and travelled our first stage of twenty-one miles along a good Sicilian road, or rather a good road for Sicily, chiefly by the side of uncultivated mountains, through thickets of myrtles, pomegranates, cistuses, and a variety of other evergreen shrubs. We stooped to bait at a pleasant village, where there are two or three handsome palm-trees,

trees, and have since made another stage of twenty-one miles through a more cultivated country, producing corn, mulberries, and olives. Several towns are placed on the tops of the hills, and many villages on the plain below. From an high cape about five miles distance we obtained a very fine view of the Lipari Islands, and from thence have continued our course by the side of a precipice, along a bold rocky shore tolerably well wooded, and formed into inclosures for corn or vines. Our inn here is really worse than that we got last night, or any we have yet met with; hitherto we have generally been able to procure one or two hard mattrasses, though we seldom chose to make use of them, on account of their filthiness; but here is nothing of the kind, nor any sort of household utensil whatever; we have, how-

ever,

ever, got three chairs since our arrival, and made a table by placing a board upon two baskets. Upon this table we are preparing to regale ourselves with some pork steaks which we brought with us, having made a fire in the middle of the room to cook them, upon our own useful gridiron. Good bread we get almost every where, the Sicilian corn being very excellent; also plenty of fresh macaroni, which is made in almost every little town in the island, and which our servants prepare for us in a few minutes, by boiling it in water, and grating upon it some parmesan cheese, a piece of which we always carry with us, as it may be had in any of the principal towns. For our chief refreshment, however, we are indebted to our tea and chocolate, though the former of these articles begins to run low, and I fear we shall
not

not be able to buy any more till our return to Naples, this herb being almost unknown in Sicily, and never given but as a medicine. Butter there is none at all to be had, and no milk but that of sheep or goats. Fish both salt and fresh, particularly anchovies, we have been able to procure at most places, and a very large sort of sprat, called *sardelle*, which are very excellent when just taken; so that instead of regretting our bad fare, we have great reason to be thankful for many a good meal, especially when we have had a slice of plumb pudding *pour la bonne bouche*, which our English servant made very well whenever we could get materials. High wind all morning, chiefly bright. Thermometer at 1, 62. Hot gleams in the evening, with wind and calms alternately. Thermometer at 3, 74. S.

BARCE-

BARCELONETTA, *Feb. 21.*

I REMEMBER reading some time ago of an officer, who, after the fatigue of an engagement, laid himself down upon the ground, and slept soundly, whilst the cannon balls were whizzing about his ears; I did not at that time credit the account, but I believe now that I could sleep under similar circumstances, as I was last night stretched upon my bag of straw, ere the supper was removed, and the other beds prepared, and was in a few minutes totally insensible to the clatter of four persons walking about the room, and every now and then jogging or stumbling over me, at the same time that a very tempestuous wind threatened our habitation with destruction. Four hours afterwards, I was called upon to hear a clap of thunder, rolling just over our

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heads,

heads, a second soon followed, and, as as I was told this morning, some more, but my inclination to sleep still continued, and I took another comfortable nap till half past five, when I was roused to pursue my journey. We first travelled under rocks, and then along a narrow road by the mountain side, where the precipices were exceedingly tremendous; in this part were large masses of stone, that appeared to contain many particles of silver, and glittered beautifully as the sun shone upon them. In descending the hill, we were agreeably entertained, with a tune upon the bag-pipes, played by a shepherd with much taste and execution, whilst the flocks of this Corydon were feeding all around him. About noon we arrived at our baiting place, (twenty-one miles) and dined in the stable. Our evening's ride, nine miles more, has

has been very pleasant. The mountains are lower, and slope easily into a plain, a mile in width, cultivated with corn, vines, and mulberries, and backed by large groves of olive-trees. Several towns, villages, and detached houses, contribute to the beauty of the landscape. We observed, that one small village was entirely new, and upon inquiring into the reason of it, were informed, that the inhabitants of a neighbouring mountain, had been so terrified by repeated earthquakes, that they were obliged to leave their old habitations, and in consideration of the losses they had sustained, were exempted from the payment of all taxes for ten years. We are come to a considerable town, in which there is a manufactory of coarse earthenware, and have taken up our lodging at a *princely* inn, the sign of the eagle, where we have a

room ten feet square, in which are two beds, four chairs, a table, two shelves, and a wash-hand basin : There is, however, nothing at all in the house, either to eat or drink, nor so much as a bit of fuel for our servants to cook our victuals, without sending out to purchase it. I perceive little difference between the Sicilian and Neapolitan people. The women in these parts dress their heads in a very simple manner, with a ribbon bound round them, and tied in a bow at the top. The most remarkable part of the men's dress is their shoes, which may be made in about ten minutes, as they consist only of a piece of calf or goat's skin, just covering the heels and toes, and fastened by a string, which being wound round the leg, binds on a kind of buskin, made of coarse cloth. Cool and windy, 55.

MES-

MESSINA, *Feb.* 23.

BARCELONETTA is situated among orchards of orange and lemon-trees, the fruit of which is so plentiful, that many lemons lie quite unheeded in the streets. The first eighteen miles of our road this morning, afforded delightful views of the same kind of scenery, as that we enjoyed yesterday, but more picturesque. The back ground is very wild, and the hills in one part, seem as if they had boiled up and congealed in the moment of ebullition. A few miles to the left, we saw the town of Milazzo, fortified with a new citadel, and embellished with many handsome buildings. It is in a singular situation, upon a promontory, which is at the same time a peninsula, being only connected to the main land by a very narrow slip of earth, little above the level of the

sea. The house where we baited, belonged to the prince of Villa Franca, who perished in the earthquake of 1783. His palace, which we saw upon a mountain, stood the shock, but was seen to move up and down with a kind of undulatory motion. Our afternoon's ride has been twelve miles. Turning our backs upon the sea, we had a very curious road for three miles up the bed of a river, from whence we ascended an high mountain, mostly barren, remarking in our way the ravages of the earthquake, in the destruction of several cottages, as also many fissures in the ground, occasioned by the same terrible convulsion. The view of Messina with its grand harbor and ships from the top of this mountain, the straits and the high woody coast of Calabria with a considerable number of towns and villages, affords a *coup d'œil*, the finest
that

that it is possible to imagine. We descended about three miles to the town. The environs are populous, and have been much more so. The dissolution here appears to have been universal; many new and handsome houses have been erected; but the majority of the inhabitants live in barracks, of one story high, without the walls. Such is our inn, *Il Leone d'oro*, the best I have seen in this island, and the landlord a civil, obliging man. Mild. Th. 59. W. We observed to day, oats in ear, and flax and lupins in flower. The latter are cultivated in great quantities in Sicily and Italy, for the purpose of feeding the cattle; but the poor people often eat them, for want of better provision.

MESSINA, *Feb.* 23.

PREVIOUS to our going to bed last night, the master of the inn told us, with great unconcern, that we might repose ourselves in tranquillity, as the house was built with canes, and would either stand the shock of an earthquake, or suffer us to escape without much injury, in case of its demolition. We enquired how long it had been since the last shock, “three days ago,” (said the landlord); “no, five,” (said the waiter). So little do these people regard what in England, or any other country, where earthquakes are less frequent, would be remarked with the most minute exactness. They have commonly three or four shocks every month, “some little and some great,” as our landlord also observed; but the people in general have now survived so many, that they speak of them with
the

the utmost indifference. The most considerate are, indeed, fearful of a more serious repetition of the former calamity, and anxiously wish for an eruption of mount Etna, to give vent to the subterraneous fires. Nothing can be more melancholy than the view of this once magnificent city now lying in ruins. The quay, which is the segment of a circle, a mile and a quarter in length, presents the ruin'd fronts of a range of grand palaces, built of white stone, which were formerly four stories high, adorned with all the orders of costly architecture. Not one remains entire, the two upper stories being thrown down throughout.

Churches, palaces, and private houses are all in the same condition in every part of the city. A new town is rising out of the ruins of the old one, and it
is

is surprising to see how many magnificent houses have been already erected.

The Messinese writers inform us, that their city was founded near four thousand years ago, endowed from time to time with peculiar privileges, and notwithstanding some calamities, to which it has been subject *, raised in the present age to an high degree of beauty and magnificence. Among its ancient privileges one is mentioned as particularly worthy of observation, viz. That the Virgin Mary, upon the application of St. Paul, wrote an invaluable letter to Messina, filled with the most tender and affectionate expressions, whereby

* About the year 1670, the Messinese rebelled against the government, and sought the protection of Louis XIV. who abandoned them to the vengeance of the Spaniards : eighteen thousand persons left the city upon this occasion ; it was deprived of many of its privileges, and, of course, fell into declension for some years. In 1743, the plague made such dreadful ravages, that 30,000 persons died in one day.

she declared herself to be the perpetual protectress of the city. To this was attributed its safety for many ages, while Palermo, Catania, and other cities of Sicily were overthrown or injured by terrible and repeated earthquakes. But (as the historian relates) the citizens having neglected to pay due adoration to the sacred virgin, she withdrew her protection, and the fair city of Messina became, in its turn, devoted to destruction. I shall relate the particulars of this calamitous event in the words of one who was a spectator of the dreadful scene.

“ On the fifth day of the present
 “ February, (1783) an unpropitious
 “ day, and ever to be had in remem-
 “ brance by the beautiful Messina, about
 “ forty-eight minutes past eleven in
 “ the morning, the earth began to
 “ shake

“ shake, at first slightly, then with
“ such force, such bellowing, and with
“ such various and irregular shocks,
“ that the motion was similar to the
“ rolling of the sea*. The walls
“ gave way on every side, knocked
“ together, and crumbled to pieces ;
“ the roofs were tost into the air, the
“ floors shattered, the vaults broken,
“ and the strongest arches divided. By
“ the force of three or four shocks,
“ which succeeded each other without
“ a moment’s intermission, many houses
“ were reduced to ruin, many palaces
“ thrown down, and churches and
“ steeples levelled with the ground.
“ At the same time a long fissure was
“ made in the earth upon the quay,

* From this motion many persons were seized with giddiness and vomiting, and the very birds were so affected, that they suffered themselves to be taken by the hand.

“ and

“ and in an adjoining hill, while ano-
 “ ther part of the coast was covered
 “ by waves. At that instant a vast
 “ cloud like ashes rose furiously from
 “ the horizon in the north-west,
 “ reached the zenith, and descended
 “ in the opposite quarter. It grew
 “ darker at the moment of the con-
 “ cussion, extended its dimensions, and
 “ almost obscured the whole hemis-
 “ phere *. At the same time also ap-
 “ peared upon the tops of the houses
 “ and palaces that were falling to
 “ pieces, a sudden and transient flame,
 “ like those lightnings that glance
 “ from the summer clouds, leaving
 “ behind it a sulphureous smell †.

* The same phenomenon was observed in three succeeding shocks, that completed the destruction of the city.

† The same was seen in several parts of Calabria, and has likewise been remarked in former earthquakes.

“ The wretched inhabitants now
“ left their houses in the greatest ter-
“ ror and confusion, calling upon God
“ with piteous cries for succour, and
“ running to and fro about the streets,
“ not knowing whither they should
“ flee. In the mean while the build-
“ ings on each side were falling upon
“ them, and the earth almost conti-
“ nually trembling under their feet,
“ so that in the short space of three
“ minutes they were almost all col-
“ lected together in the squares and
“ open places of the city under the
“ dreadful apprehensions of instant
“ death. Every eye was bathed with
“ tears, and every heart palpitated
“ with fear, while they experienced an
“ addition to their misery, by being
“ exposed to the violence of a tem-
“ pestuous wind, attended with tor-
“ rents of hail and rain. It is impos-
“ sible

“ fible for the pencil of the most in-
 “ genious painter to delineate, or for
 “ the pen of the most able writer to
 “ describe the horror and confusion of
 “ these wretched people. Each one
 “ sought for safety in flight, and many
 “ in seeking it met with death. Others
 “ were buried alive under the falling
 “ houses *, others hung upon the
 “ beams, others upon the thresholds
 “ of the windows and balconies, from
 “ whence by means of ropes and lad-
 “ ders they with difficulty escaped with
 “ their lives, and others miserably pe-
 “ rished, either under the stones and
 “ rubbish of their own dwellings, or
 “ from the buildings, which fell upon
 “ them as they passed through the
 “ streets.

* Rosa Santangelo, aged ninety-seven, was dug out of the ruins at Catania, in the year 1693. She was again buried by this earthquake at Messina, and again preserved alive.

“ They

“ They who escaped unhurt, spent
“ the rest of the day in preparing a
“ place of shelter against the approach-
“ ing night. Some little ill-built ca-
“ bins, composed of furniture taken
“ from the ruins, were raised in
“ the space of a few hours, within
“ which they lay together in promif-
“ cuous companies upon the bare
“ ground.

“ The earth in the mean time con-
“ tinued to shake incessantly, with a
“ noise fimilar to a furious cannonad-
“ ing, which seemed to proceed from
“ within its bowels. Sometimes the
“ fhocks were weak, sometimes strong,
“ and fo continued till midnight, when
“ with a most tremendous noise the
“ fhaking affumed a redoubled fury,
“ and threw down all thofe edifices
“ that had refifted the former fhocks.

“ Then

“ Then fell part of the walls of the
 “ cathedral, the magnificent steeple,
 “ two hundred and twenty-five palms
 “ in height, part of the great hospital,
 “ the seminary of the priests, the re-
 “ mainder of the student’s college*,
 “ the front of the palaces upon the
 “ quay, many churches, convents and
 “ monasteries, together with multi-
 “ tudes of private houses. At the
 “ same time the sea rose with an ex-
 “ traordinary roaring to a vast height,
 “ overflowed a long tract of land near
 “ a little lake called *Il Pantanello*, and
 “ carried back with it some poor cot-
 “ tages that were there erected, toge-
 “ ther with all the men, animals and
 “ vessels it met with in its passage,
 “ leaving upon the land, which had

* The greater part of the students, who had been im-
 mured by the falling of the buildings at the first shock,
 were now set at liberty, and escaped unhurt.

“ been overthrown, a great quantity
“ of fish of various kinds.

“ From twelve o'clock of the afore-
“ said fifth of February to the mid-
“ night following, the shocks were so
“ frequent, that they succeeded each
“ other without any interval longer
“ than fifteen minutes, and continued
“ much in the same manner till about
“ three o'clock on the evening of the
“ seventh, when the whole mine was
“ sprung at once, and the last stroke
“ given to the already ruined Messina.
“ A cloud of dust that darkened the
“ air rose from the falling city, and in
“ this, more than in any of the former
“ earthquakes, was felt a variety of mo-
“ tions undulatory, vertical, &c. which
“ shattered the walls to pieces, destroy-
“ ed many buildings from their very
“ foundations, and, as if pounded in

“ a mortar, spread them over the surface of the earth *.”

“ Some few edifices that were founded upon rocks in the upper part of the city, are still standing, but they are for the most part so cracked and damaged, that it is dangerous to go near them.”

But, however terrible the earthquakes were at Messina, they were much more so in Calabria, where mountains were changed into vallies, and vallies into mountains, rivers turned, lakes formed, and the whole face of the country visibly altered.

* The whole number of persons that lost their lives at Messina, amounted to six hundred and seventeen, besides which, many others were wounded in a terrible manner. Two children, a boy and a girl, continued seven days under the ruins, and were then found alive, and it is reported of another, that he recovered after having been confined a still longer time. Some guinea-fowls subsisted without food seventeen days, and two mules twenty-four.

In a place called *Il lago del Monte*, about a mile from Seminara, a cottage with an adjoining orangery, and a man upon it, were carried to the distance of a mile.

In the district of Cofoleto, a large plain called Cineti sunk above three hundred palms, and formed a deep valley, and a cottage was removed two gun-shots above its former situation, without receiving any injury.

In St. Cristina, a vineyard situated upon an eminence, and a plantation of olives upon a plain, together with a tower erected upon it, changed places, so that the vineyard was upon a plain, and the plantation of olives upon an eminence, with the tower standing as before. In the same district some persons sunk into a chasm, which opened
under

under their feet, and were immediately thrown out again without receiving any material hurt; while others, who were travelling on horse-back, were thrown from their seats and buried in the abyss. In Soriano, two mountains were united, thirteen persons were killed, and a large lake formed.

In a plain between Seminara and Le Pietre Negre, there appeared an hot lake throwing up its waters into the air. In the territory of Setizano, a large portion of land was joined to another belonging to Cofoleto, by means of which the course of a river was stopped, and the country laid under water, for the space of several miles. A mountain above Sinopoli was torn from its centre, and carried across a valley to the distance of a mile and half. But the most extraordinary circumstance

happened to a Greek ship near the island of Lipari, which either sunk, or seemed to sink, from the waves being thrown up very high on each side, into the depths of the sea, and which recovered its former situation, not only without damage, but without receiving a drop of water in its inside.

The most violent force of the shocks, was extended through a tract of country fifty-eight miles long, and twenty broad, including a space of eleven hundred and sixty square miles.

When the astonishing effects of this, and former earthquakes in these parts * are

* Diod. Sic. Strabo, Virg. and other authors of credit, affirm, that in times immemorial the coast of Italy was separated from that of Sicily.

are duly considered, the tradition which Plato received in Egypt, of the separation of the American continent, by a convulsion of a similar nature, will appear much less improbable, than those

In the year 326, many cities in Sicily were greatly injured, Nicea destroyed, and Constantinople partly ruined.

In 1169, Catania was so totally overthrown, that one stone was not left upon another, and 15,000 persons killed. All Sicily and Calabria felt the shock, and received considerable damage.

In 1456, all Calabria and Naples felt shocks of uncommon violence.

In 1494, 1498, and 1509, Messina suffered much, and Reggio was destroyed: 1542 is noted for an earthquake, that destroyed Catania, Augusta, Noto, Callagerone, Militello, Palermo, Trapani, and many other cities. In 1566, Randazzo was destroyed, and in 1570, all Europe was shaken. In 1609, the city of Naples was reduced to ruins, and greatly injured in 1638, and immense damage done in both the Calabrias.—The same city was again laid waste in 1688, and in January 11, 1693, the whole island of Sicily was shaken, with the death of 60,000 persons. To these succeeded other strong shocks, in 1743-47-69 and 80, with many others of smaller note.

who have never paid attention to the phænomena of earthquakes, are apt to consider it. For who can set bounds either to the extent or force of these concussions? Vesuvius, Stromboli, Etna, and Mount Semo, in Ethiopia, at least two thousand miles distant from the former, are said to correspond in their eruptions*.—If so, there is certainly a

* Jones's Physiological Disquisitions.—The same ingenious author speaking upon this subject, says, "This, i. e. the separation of America, is farther confirmed by the present state of the intermediate islands of the Atlantic, the Canaries, Azores, &c. which appear like fragments of a shattered land, and bear the marks of volcanoes and earthquakes in all parts of them, the Pico Teneriffe itself, by the materials of which it is composed, being no other than an huge monument of some violent eruption. The sea, in which these islands are found, is still subject to subterraneous fires rising from its bottom, of which there have been recent instances, near the island Tercera, described in the Philosophical Transactions.

"In the year 1757, and in the month of July, all the Azores suffered greatly by an earthquake; eighteen new islands appeared, and considerable tracts of the old ones were swallowed up."

CON-

connection between them by subterraneous canals under the bed of the sea. But take away these vents, confine the volcanic matter within its original caverns, and then when the superincumbent strata of the earth have not sufficient strength to resist the force within, they will yield with a disruption vast as the Atlantic Ocean.

I shall close this account of earthquakes, with mentioning some of those phænomena, by which they are usually preceded or followed, and which it is of the utmost importance to the inhabitants of this country to consider with attention, that they may be able to escape the direful effects of an approaching shock.

From the fatal fifth of January, 1783, to the end of July, almost all
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the shocks (which, besides sixty-two in the first twenty-four hours, amounted to near one hundred) were preceded by a long streak of clouds, near the horizon, extending from the east to the south, which grew darker after sun-set, and were soon confounded with the other clouds *. In the course of the same year, particularly in the month of July, there was an extraordinary appearance of the Aurora Borealis, and such terrible thunder and lightning as was never before known; a few days after a globe of fire, a foot in diameter, was observed slowly moving through the air, between the south and south-east, leaving behind it luminous particles similar to those meteors, vulgarly called falling stars, which

* The same was remarked in the year 1693 and in 1780.

also were seen every evening in great quantities.

The sun generally appeared obscured by a mist which spread itself so thickly in the lower regions of the atmosphere, as to obstruct the view of the Calabrian coast. The moon, at night, was in like manner darkened, or surrounded by an halo: it must, however, be observed, that on the days when this mist was thickest, no shock was ever felt.

The winds were variable and inconstant, except at the time of a shock; when there was a dead calm; but as soon as it was over, they sprang up again, and in the space of twenty-four hours, would change to every point in the compass.

The

The sea frequently rose higher than usual, with an uncommon roaring noise, and the wells at the same time became thick and turbid; a sure indication that an earthquake would follow in a few hours afterwards; and as the last signal, which only took place a few seconds before, Volcano and Stromboli cast up dense globes of smoke, very different from what was observed at other times,

The brute creation gave manifest indications of some extraordinary revolution, particularly before the great shock which happened on the seventh of February. Some oxen that were feeding in a meadow near Messina, placed their feet strongly against the earth, as if to oppose a force from beneath, and raising their heads into the air, bellowed with all their strength.

The

The birds fled about in a confused manner, and seemed afraid to perch upon the trees, or light upon the ground, and immense quantities of sea-geese were seen swimming upon the waters of the Faro.

A small fish, called Cicinello, esteemed a very great delicacy, was so plentiful at this time in all the Sicilian seas, that the fishermen were unable to find purchasers. An unusual quantity of other fish were also taken at this time on the western side of the island, whither they seemed to have retired from an apprehension of impending danger.

WE have with no small pleasure dismissed our muleteers, who are the greatest villains I ever had the misfortune to be in company with; every
fowl,

fowl, lamb or kid they could seize unnoticed upon the road, were snatched up and slain without mercy, and many that escaped are still sensible of the blows they received. The poor laborious mules got many a severe stroke, and dogs, cats and pigs ran groaning from the cruelty of these brutal Palermians. They expected our approbation for every ingenious act of roguery, and could hardly believe their cruelty to the beasts was not extremely acceptable. Cloudy and cool. Rainy evening.

MESSINA, *Feb.* 24.

THE front of the great church which withstood the force of the earthquake, is a singular and beautiful piece of architecture. The portal is of white
marble,

marble, ornamented with several figures, though it is difficult to say whether some that are represented climbing up vine-trees are intended for children, monkeys or angels. The ground of the wall is chiefly red, with compartments of Mosaic work in horizontal lines. At the end of the once magnificent quay is a public walk planted with poplars, which are just bursting into leaf; a curious slip of low land *, on which the barracks are erected, extends from thence, and forms the harbor. Rain continued till early this morning; cool fine day, and wet night.

* This land is in the shape of a sickle, or reaping hook, from whence Messina was formerly called by the Greeks *zancle*, who feigned that the sickle of Saturn fell upon this spot, and gave it its form. It was called Messina by the Romans, from *messis*, harvest.

GIARDINI,

GIARDINI, Feb. 25.

WITH fresh mules and fresh men, including two campieri, we set out this morning with an intention of visiting Catania and Syracuse. Our cattle are not so good as those we had from Palermo, nor our drivers so expert; but the experience of the day tells us they are honest and obliging. We travelled, as usual, by the sea-side, and for the first ten miles observed that almost every house had shared the fate of those in Messina.

Speaking of earthquakes, I should note before I leave the subject, that one happened three weeks ago in the Lower Calabria; which threw down seven houses, but the people escaped unhurt. It was likewise felt at Messina,

finæ, and the ships in the harbor were thrown against one another with such violence, that many of them received considerable damage. Upon leaving the town, we passed through gardens, and then under beautiful marble rocks, variegated with red, white, green and brown. The country, like the rest of the island that we have already seen, is very mountainous, but there is, most of the way, a narrow plain by the sea, cultivated with corn, vines and mulberries. We were directed to take notice of a particular spot in one of the mountains, where there is a mine of silver, which is constantly guarded by a party of soldiers.

Fifteen miles on this side Messina there is not one house thrown down, though the shock was very sensibly felt. Our whole day's journey has

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been

been thirty miles, and the prospects very agreeable. We had a view of Etna most of the way; in the morning it was covered with clouds, but in the evening perfectly clear. It is now inaccessible on account of the snow, and generally continues so till the month of June. The crater, which to us appeared but as a point, is four miles in circumference, and emits a smoke like Vesuvius and Stromboli. The latter mountain about two months ago discharged a stream of lava from its side near a village, and destroyed two hundred people.

We arrived at this place just after sun-set, and were turned into a great cabin or hovel, with a fire on the floor, over which a pot was boiling, and the family sitting round like the savages in the South-Seas, or the robbers

bers in Gil Blas. There was no chimney, and the walls were as black as jet. We were almost suffocated with smoak. Our banker at Messina, Signor Gregorio Faroe, who has shewn us very great civilities, and taken upon himself the trouble of providing every thing for our journey, charged one of our attendants with a letter to an ecclesiastic at this place, so that we only waited in the cabin till it was delivered. But the gentleman was not at home; however, we have obtained a pretty good chamber at another house, and since our coming into it have had a visit from the benevolent priest, who has sent us fruit and wine, offered us every thing that his house will afford, and made us promise to pay him a visit upon our return. Fair and mild. Ther. 61.

CATANIA, *Feb. 26.*

BEING up early, we enjoyed the pleasure of seeing the sun rise out of the sea in a clear serene morning. Etna was then in full view, and received the rays upon its summit just four minutes before they reached us as we stood upon the sea-shore. We had a delightful journey at the base of that great mountain whose lower region slopes into a fine plain, well cultivated, and well wooded; the almond trees, which grow here in great quantities, are almost all in full leaf, and beautifully ornamented with blossoms; there are likewise some fine groves of oaks, walnuts, figs, and olives, intermixt with corn-fields and vineyards. The barley is now coming into ear, and the flax and lupins are every where in flower.

For

For these last twenty miles we have travelled over streams of old lava, which have extended even to this town, I should think full twenty miles from the crater. The people of the country believe Etna to be one of the mouths of hell, and that the devil has his station there, but that he sometimes pays a visit to Vesuvius and Stromboli. They likewise assert, that every person who has attempted to gain the summit, has been carried away in a whirlwind; but this story is as void of truth as the other; for the landlord of our inn, who generally attends strangers, told us that he had been at the top a hundred and twenty times*. He says there is always a great rum-

* I have since found that the accounts given by this gentleman do not deserve much credit; however, I believe he has been several times at the top of Etna, though not perhaps a hundred and twenty.

bling and commotion in the bowels of the mountain. The descent to Catania through groves of fruit trees is highly beautiful; we saw the town at the bottom, and beyond a rich champagne country, which, after the wild scenes we had passed, was particularly agreeable. It is now the carnival, and many of the people are in masquerade. Upon entering the town, we met a low phaeton and pair driven by two masked postilions abreast in jackets and trousers, with two persons masked within, and a masked man in woman's cloaths standing behind. Bright and serene, Ther. at one, 61.

CATANIA, *Feb. 27.*

THIS city has been destroyed seven times, either by eruptions, or by earthquakes.

quakes. The last time was by an earthquake, in the year 1693. It is said, that a century never elapses without a calamity of this kind; if so, the present beautiful city must very soon be brought to destruction. The inhabitants, like those in the vicinity of Vesuvius, apply to their tutelary saint in every time of danger. St. Agatha is the protectress here, and has, in common with the rest in the popish calendar, a day set apart to her honor every year. Her veil is then thrown into the fire, and by a miracle comes out unburnt; but if it be made of asbestos, (as I suppose it is) it would be a miracle indeed if it happened otherwise. When the city was last destroyed, the people that had time to escape lived upwards of thirty years in barracks, so that the present town is of more modern date than some of its in-

habitants. The streets are perfectly straight, wide, and well paved with broad, flat stones, of lava. Many of the houses are magnificent, and the poorer ones have an air of neatness, but by far the greater part of each are built with lava. The churches are large, in an handsome style of architecture, but not much ornamented within, excepting one that has received a temporary decoration in honor of St. Agatha. The pillars and arches are covered with looking-glasses in silver frames, and between each pillar is a curtain of blue and pink, laced with silver. We took a walk this morning in a garden (if such it may be called) belonging to the prince of Biscari. Among mountains of lava are broad walks, wide enough for a carriage, and here and there a little grass and a few Indian figs growing through the cre-

vices of the cinders. In the lower part is a fish-pond, fenced from the sea by a terrace of lava, a great part of which was thrown down by the earthquake of 1783. Near the water is one handsome palm-tree. This lava was from the last great eruption ninety-eight years ago. It caused the sea to retire near a mile from its ancient boundary, and from the height it now remains above the surface of the water, I may safely conjecture that it is at least thirty feet in thickness *. A fort-

* Sir William Hamilton, who surveyed mount Etna with great accuracy in 1769, relates, that in the great eruption of 1669, by the stones and cinders alone, a hill was formed one mile in height, and three in circumference; and that the stream of lava was fourteen miles long; in many places six wide, and fifty feet in thickness. This eruption did not proceed from the crater at the top of the mountain, but broke out near the base, as indeed the eruptions have generally done for some centuries past, the boiling matter being unable to rise to so great a height as twelve or thirteen thousand feet.

refs that stood by the walls of the old town remains, without injury, in its original situation. In a room belonging to the cathedral there is a large picture, very coarsely executed, representing the city and the stream of liquid fire that flowed by its walls, with an inscription at the bottom, signifying that what the lava spared, the earthquake destroyed. Mr. Brydone, in the history which he gives of this wonderful mountain, insinuates, that it is of much greater antiquity than the world itself, according to the Mosaic account. As a proof of this bold conjecture, he observes, vol. i. p. 124, 125, that a stream of lava which flowed two thousand years ago, is “as
“ yet only covered with a very scanty
“ vegetation ;” and concluding that the vegetative process is always similar, dates the age of the mountain accord-
ing

ing to the various strata of lava and
 soil that have been discovered. “ Near
 “ a vault (says he) which is now
 “ thirty feet below ground, and has
 “ probably been a burial-place, there
 “ is a draw-well, where there are se-
 “ veral strata of lavas, with earth to
 “ a considerable thickness over the
 “ surface of each stratum. Recupero
 “ has made use of this as an argu-
 “ ment to prove the great antiquity of
 “ the eruptions of his mountain : for
 “ if it requires two thousand years or
 “ upwards to form but a scanty soil on
 “ the surface of a lava, there must
 “ have been more than that space of
 “ time betwixt each of the eruptions
 “ which have formed these strata.
 “ But what shall we say of a pit they
 “ sunk near to Iaci of a great depth ?
 “ They pierced through seven distinct
 “ lavas, one under the other, the sur-
 “ faces

“faces of which were parallel, and
 “most of them covered with a thick
 “bed of rich earth. Now (says he)
 “the eruption which formed the
 “lowest of these lavas, if we may be
 “allowed to reason from analogy,
 “must have flowed from the moun-
 “tain at least fourteen thousand years
 “ago.”

As I have a much greater veneration
 for the writings of Moses, confirmed
 by the testimony of the most ancient
 authors, of Christ and his apostles, and
 of the whole body of the Jewish na-
 tion, than for the testimony of one
 Sicilian author, plausible as his account
 may appear, I must beg leave to make
 a few ^{see} observations against this sup-
 posed antiquity of the mighty Etna.

In the first place, Mr. Brydone supposes Signor Recupero, whom he calls "*the historiographer of Etna*," a very competent judge of the circumstances above related, and seems to take upon trust the greater part of what that volcanic philosopher has thought proper to advance. Admitting that gentleman to possess a very considerable share of knowledge, we may yet hazard a conjecture in supposing that his observations have been chiefly confined to the regions of Etna, and in that case he might possibly mistake other dark strata, in the well at Iaci, of whose nature he was unacquainted, for those of lava*. However, without calling in

*. Near Viterbo there is a hill that seems to be composed of volcanic matter, though there are no other marks of any volcano in the neighbourhood. Indeed, the appearance of the hill itself, which is a low, long bank, is a sufficient proof that it was neither thrown up nor consists of lava run into that form.

question

question either the veracity or the knowledge of the canonic Recupero; Mr. Brydone himself furnishes sufficient matter to refute his own hypothesis. “ Our landlord at Nicolosi; “ (says he) gave us an account of the “ singular fate of the beautiful country near Hybla, at no great distance “ from hence. It was so celebrated “ for its fertility, and particularly for “ its honey, that it was called Mel. “ Passi, till it was overwhelmed by the “ lava of Etna; and having then become totally barren, its name was “ changed by a kind of pun to Mal “ Passi. In a second eruption, by a “ shower of ashes from the mountain, “ *it soon re-assumed* its ancient beauty “ and fertility, and for many years “ was called Bel Passi.” How soon? I apprehend in a much shorter space than two thousand years; and as

iaci appears to be as near the mountain as Bel Paffi, why may not some of the seven layers be fertilized by the same cause? Again, page 125, speaking of the progress of vegetation, he says, " This progress, I suppose, is
 " *often* greatly accelerated by showers
 " of ashes from the mountain, as I
 " have observed in some places the
 " richest soil, to the depth of five
 " or six feet, and upwards; and still
 " below that nothing but rocks of
 " lava." Speaking of a convent of Benedictine monks, p. 147, he writes,
 " Their garden is the greatest curiosity:
 " although it be formed on the rugged
 " and barren surface of the lava, it
 " has a variety and neatness seldom to
 " be met with. The walks are broad
 " and paved with flints, and the trees
 " and hedges (which, by the bye, are
 " in a bad taste, and cut into a num-
 " ber

“ber of ridiculous shapes) thrive ex-
“ceedingly. The whole foil must have
“been brought from a great distance,
“as the surface of this lava (*only one*
“*hundred and fifty years old*) is as hard
“and bare as a piece of iron.” Why
might not foil have been brought to
cover former lavas as well as this?
When it is considered how extremely
populous these parts were in former
ages; it may be easily supposed, that
the people would use their utmost in-
dustry to refertilize the lands which the
lava overflowed. If such an event can
happen in so short a space, I see no
reason for rejecting the Mosaic register
of the world’s age.

But there is another objection yet
unanswered, we read, p. 189, 190, “I
“observed, that this region of Etna,
“like the former, is composed of lava;
“but

“ but this is now covered so deep with
 “ earth, that it is no where to be seen
 “ but in the beds of the torrents. In
 “ many of these it is worn down by
 “ the water to the depth of fifty or
 “ sixty feet, and in one of them still
 “ considerably more. What an idea
 “ does not this give of the amazing
 “ antiquity of the eruptions of this
 “ mountain!” But is it extraordinary,
 that a country so rent as this is by re-
 peated earthquakes, should abound with
 deep chasms, through which the water
 would run as the most natural passage,
 without requiring ages *to wear itself*
 away? I did not particularly attend to this
 circumstance in my road, but I must
 have crossed all the streams that flow
 between the mountain and the sea, and
 do not remember one deep chasm all
 the way. There is indeed one confi-
 derable river that runs through a bed

of very ancient lava, which evidently appears to have been worn by the attrition of the water, but it is by no means so deep as to require above two or 3000 years for the purpose. All these circumstances taken together, I shall remain an infidel to infidelity till stronger evidence, against the writings of Moses be brought to light.

We had letters from Signor Joenai, the king's chamberlain at Naples, to his brother in this town, who has shewn us a museum, containing the natural curiosities of Sicily, and some of Vesuvius, excellently arranged according to the Linnæan method, in some small elegant rooms set apart for the purpose. The chamberlain has found a new species of cockle, some of which have a place in the museum, under the name of Joenai. He has likewise published

lished a small pamphlet, containing a description of this wonderful shell. The small shells are placed in little glass boxes, each of which has a magnifier at the top. He shewed us the muscle, from the hair of which is made a kind of fine cloth.

The women of Catania, appear like mourners at a funeral, having long black cloaks that reach down to the ankles; they are neither made up, nor trimmed, and drawn so close over the face, that little more than the nose is visible.

We have been this evening with the Chevalier Joenai, to see the antiquities of the place. The first to which he conducted us is some feet below the level of the street, and appears to have shared the fate of Her-

culaneum, in being overwhelmed by a stream of lava. The purpose for which the building was erected is not certainly known. The part that has been excavated is strongly vaulted, and supported by nine square pillars of lava at equal distances. In several parts are discoverable some figures of plaister, or stucco, in good preservation, and extremely well wrought. From thence, we went to view some ancient baths, not long since discovered, by the prince of Biscari, who has examined into these monuments of antiquity with the most indefatigable labor. We afterwards took a view of the theatre, which still continues above ground, but is so surrounded and filled up by modern buildings, that without an excellent cicerone, we should have found much difficulty in tracing out its dimensions. It is somewhat larger than the theatre of
Mar-

Marcellus at Rome, which was three hundred and sixty-six feet in diameter, and able to contain upwards of 30,000 spectators. This theatre consisted of three stories, crowned by an attic, of which some vestiges are yet remaining.

A vast quantity of marble has been found in this spot, and among other marks of its ancient magnificence, were six granite pillars, which now stand in the cathedral. The prince of Biscari possesses the base of one of these pillars, which is admirably well preserved. This theatre was first erected by the Greeks, after which it fell into a ruinous state, and was restored by the Romans. Adjoining to this, has been discovered another theatre, much smaller, and built in a very simple style of architecture. We were next conducted to the amphitheatre, which was discovered likewise by the prince

already mentioned, below the surface of the earth; its form is oval, like all other amphitheatres. One end rests against a mountain, and at the other is a wall constructed with masses of lava.

After feasting our eyes with these antiquities, we were driven in the chevalier's coach several times through the same streets, every now and then stopping amidst a crowd of carriages to see and be seen; a species of amusement that the Sicilian and Neapolitan gentry are extremely fond of. As no kind of wheeled vehicle can go out of the town, on account of there being no roads, and as that is of no great magnitude, one would suppose that few carriages were kept, however, I was assured that there are at least two hundred. The common people appear every afternoon in the most ridiculous masquerade, and
the

the people of fashion have their masked balls at night, which continue till day-break. Fine mild day, but not so bright as yesterday.

CATANIA, *Feb. 28.*

A SMART shock of an earthquake was felt here last Christmas-day, but the Catanians are not so subject to that calamity as the Messinese. The latter impute their frequent alarms to the present tranquillity of Etna, whereas the Catanians affirm, that if the ground about Messina has any connection with the subterraneous caverns of the mountain, the ground here should have a greater, and consequently be subject to greater agitations. But may not the phænomenon be explained upon this

principle? The ground which is at the base of the mountain has so close a connection with it, that the common eruptions of smoke and flame give a vent to the sulphureous particles, whereas that which is more remote cannot be delivered from them but by more violent explosions.

The Chevalier Joenai has taken us in his uneasy vehicle to see a convent of Monks of the same order, and the same society as those at St. Martino; it is a large edifice containing an handsome library, a good museum, and a very large church in which is an exceeding fine organ. From thence we went to the museum of the prince of Biscari, containing a very capital collection of curiosities, such as busts, statues, inscriptions, fossils, minerals, animals, &c. &c. Among the fossils is a stony mass,

mas, inclosing the two jaws and teeth of some animal, most probably of a dog.

The nobility and gentry in Italy and Sicily affect a deal of state, and to make a figure in public place all the servants they can muster up behind their carriages. They are not, however, remarkably nice with respect to their dress and liveries, when they stay at home. The shoes of their domestics are often all in holes, and their shirts and stockings coarse, ragged, and filthy in the extreme. As we passed through the great hall at the prince of Biscari's, one of the servants was charitably engaged in destroying certain animals which abounded in the head of his comrade. Serene and mild,

AUGUSTA, *March 1.*

UPON observing a fine plain from Catania, extending a considerable way towards Syracuse, I anticipated a delightful

lightful day's journey, but have been much disappointed in finding a dead flat for the first twenty miles, with little tillage, and very few trees. The road by places extremely bad *. The last twelve miles were more agreeable. After ascending an hill planted with olives, we came to a rocky waste, which was soon contrasted by corn-fields and lawns, embellished with fruit-trees, palms, and cottages. Previous to our arrival in the town, our guards were ordered to lay down their arms. We entered by a strong fortrefs apparently new, were examined at the gates, and were conducted by a foldier with his musket in his hand to the guard-house, where

* When we had proceeded about ten miles from Catania, my brother, who had just quitted his litiga *for safety*, and mounted *Cacca-Sangue's Rosinante*, met with an accident, which might have been attended with very serious consequences. Whilst he was riding on a very narrow path, on a raised ridge of earth, the bank gave way, and he and his horse both tumbled into a pit of mud below; had he fallen half a yard farther, man and beast would probably have been suffocated, but providentially by the assistance at hand, both *the horse and the rider* were soon extricated from their difficulty, and neither of them received any other injury, but what a little mirth qualified, and pure water easily repaired.

we were interrogated by an officer that spoke English, and told us he was *an Irishman born at Augusta*. From him we were sent under the same guard to the commandant, who first addressed us in French, but upon learning our nation, he spoke to us in good English; he behaved with the greatest politeness, and offered his services in any manner that we chose to make use of them. He is a native of Cadiz in Spain.

We are lodged at a convent of Augustines, not sumptuously, but *comfortably* for Sicily, at least I *now* think so, though were I in England, I should probably esteem it a great hardship to lie upon a straw bed with no other furniture than a rug to cover me. On our account, the holy fathers have set aside their midnight or two o'clock prayers; which is, I believe, a *privilege* they

they are glad to enjoy when any strangers come to the convent.

The town is a tolerable one, and the streets wide and straight, though there are no fine buildings. It is situated upon a peninsula, which is now made an island by the fortifications, and the water that passes under the draw-bridge. We have a magnificent view from this convent of a fine sloping shore as far as Syracuse, which being now covered with green corn, forms a beautiful lawn.

The greatest instance of distress I ever beheld, was exhibited this evening by a poor woman, who in purchasing some earthen ware from a Neapolitan vessel, had made a mistake of about two shillings in the change. She cried, she roared, she stamp, and beat her

her breast with so much violence, that the blows might be heard to a considerable distance. All the arguments she could use with the man, that she thought had deceived her, only exposed her to greater ridicule. My brother, who was a spectator of the poor creature's distress, told her he had found the money, and upon amply making up the loss, she fell upon the ground to kiss his feet.

Upon quitting the convent we made the monks a present of about a guinea for our lodging, which, as they are a begging order, they readily accepted as a matter of charity, and said they hoped to see us in our return.

SYRACUSE,

SYRACUSE, *March 2.*

WE crossed a gulph from Augusta in an open boat, and met our mules on the opposite side; from thence we travelled over a barren stony country, capable of cultivation, but at present only affording pasturage to a very few cattle. About four miles distant from this town, we ascended a very rough old pavement, called *Scala Græca* *, and remarked that the rocks on each side had been worn into furrows by the wheels of carriages. The ancient roads branched off in a variety of directions, and as they were all worn in the same manner, the carriages must not only have been extremely numerous, but exceedingly heavy. Near the same place are some caverns, which our

* The Greek ladder.

guides informed us had been the habitations of the Greeks.

This town, so famous in history, has almost totally lost its former splendor, but is still rendered a place of note by its fortifications, which are almost new, and amazingly strong. We passed through five gates before we got into the town, and were examined at the first respecting our nation and business. Upon our arrival we went to what was called the inn, in which we had scarcely been five minutes, before we saw swarms of fleas creeping up our legs, which drove us hastily out of the house, and have, after a good deal of trouble, proved the means of getting us much better apartments. Warm, and some fun. Th. 61. S.E.

SYRACUSE,

SYRACUSE, *March 3:*

THE history of Syracuse is little known till the time of Gelon, (four hundred and eighty-five years before the birth of Christ) under whose mild and equitable government it acquired much of that strength which rendered it so formidable for many succeeding ages: Gelon bequeathed the dominion to his brother Hiero, and upon his decease to his brother Thrasibulus, who upon treating his subjects in a tyrannical manner, was deposed after a reign of only ten months. Upon this the citizens of Syracuse, and of the other cities who had groaned under the same yoke of servitude, were declared free, and in that state, upon an application from the Agrigentines, greatly increased their reputation in a successful war against the Siculi. Elated with victory, they

they thought themselves in condition to give law to the whole island, and invaded the territory of the Leontines, who being reduced to great straits, invited the Athenians to their assistance, who accordingly came over, ravaged the Æolian islands, at that time in confederacy with Syracuse, defeated the Myleans as they were marching to join the Syracusans; took their city, and committed great devastation in the enemy's country. As the Athenians continued to encrease their forces, the Leontines were apprehensive they meant to reduce the whole island, and therefore stopt their career by concluding a separate peace with the Syracusans, upon which they were made free of Syracuse.

It was about ten years after this that the Athenians had a fresh opportunity of attempting the reduction of the
M island,

island, upon being invited over to the assistance of the Egeftans. The dif-
appointment they met with upon that expedition I have already mentioned, and their intention thereupon of turning their arms againft this city. The fiege was carried on with great vigor, and the lofs of the befiegers and befieged continued for fome time nearly equal. At length, about the end of the third year, victory declared in favor of the Syracufans, and out of forty thoufand Athenians that landed in Sicily, a very fmall number returned to Greece, eighteen thoufand being flain in one engagement, befides many more that were cut off in different skirmifhes; fix thoufand furrendered as prifoners of war, upon condition that their lives fhould be granted them; but being reduced to flavery, and treated with great barbarity, moft of
them

them died of the hardships which they suffered.

The war with Carthage next succeeded, and was also occasioned by the Egestans, who, dreading the resentment of the Syracusans, and a fresh attack from the Selinuntines, invited that nation over to their assistance. The invitation was readily accepted, and Hannibal sent over with an army of three hundred thousand men.

Without entering into a particular detail of the sieges carried on, and battles fought by this enterprising people, suffice it to say, that after lavishing an immense treasure, and losing several hundred thousand brave men in attempting to reduce the island under their dominion, they were at last obliged to abandon it to the Romans, who, un-

der the command of the Consul Marcellus, laid siege to Syracuse, and took it at the end of three years. It was enabled to hold out so long by the wonderful skill of Archimedes the mathematician; whose engines were constructed in so surprizing a manner, and did so much execution on the besiegers, that the accounts historians give of them appear almost incredible.

When the place was taken, the Roman general treated the conquered with the greatest clemency, and expressly ordered his soldiers, while they seized the booty, to spare the lives of the citizens. But this order was not sufficient to restrain their fury; many persons were put to death, and among the rest the great Archimedes. He was very calmly drawing his lines, when he saw a soldier enter his room,
and

and put a sword to his throat. "Hold, friend, (said he) one moment, and my demonstration will be finished." The soldier, astonished at his unconcern, resolved to carry him to Marcellus; but Archimedes taking under his arm a small box full of mathematical instruments, the soldier thought it contained a treasure; and not being able to resist the temptation, killed him upon the spot.

Syracuse was founded by Archias, a Corinthian, upwards of seven hundred years before the birth of Christ, and was, according to Strabo, one of the most famous cities in the world for its advantageous situation, the stateliness of its buildings, and the immense wealth of its inhabitants: it was divided into four parts, distinguished by the names of Acradina, Tyche, Neapolis and Or-

tygia, all of which were included within a treble wall twenty-two miles in compass, and which was so flanked with towers and castles at proper distances, that it was deemed impregnable. Acradina, which was the largest part of the city, was situated upon the sea-side, and divided from Neapolis and Tyche by a wall of an extraordinary thickness and height. The second city called Tyche stood between Acradina and an hill called Epipolæ, where there was a strong fortress, and several other buildings, insomuch that some speak of it as a fifth city. The third city called Ortygia was built upon an island, and joined to the rest by a bridge; the fourth was called Neapolis, or the new city, because built after the other three. There were two harbors near each other, being only separated by the island; they were denominated

nominated the great and small, and both were surrounded by stately edifices.

SYRACUSE, *March 3.*

THE Baron Miloco, to whom we had letters from the governor of Catania, who resides at Messina, visited us this morning, and took us in his carriage to see the remains of this once magnificent city. The first object that engaged our attention, was a Grecian theatre situated upon an hill, about half a mile distant from the town, and which seems to defy all the ravages of time, being more than half formed by the natural situation of the ground, and having all its seats hewn out of the solid rock. Just above is an aqueduct,

M 4.

partly

partly hewn, and partly built, and a little beyond, a singular street, cut through a rock, with a range of tombs on each side. Near the same spot is a curious stone quarry, in one part of which is a large cavern, called Dionysius's ear, because it winds somewhat in that form, and was turned into a prison by that tyrant; it is eighty feet high, and one hundred and twenty long. An honest miller, who labors on the stream that still flows copiously from the ruined aqueduct, attended us thither with an horn of powder, to amuse us with the echoes of that surprising vault, but the experiment was very near producing fatal consequences, as the powder in the horn accidentally took fire. Providentially the quantity was very small, and no injury followed. No arguments could prevail with the man to accept any thing for his trouble,

ble,

ble, and for the ^{loss}injury he had sustained, though by his appearance, pecuniary assistance would have been very acceptable. In the center of the quarry is an high insulated rock, with a castle on the top, erected by the Saracens. Passing from thence over a few fields, we came to some small caverns, one of which is simply ornamented over the entrance, with Doric architecture cut in the solid rock. A little farther, we found a Gothic church under ground, said to be the first Christian one in the island *; it is very small,

* The sacred writings inform us, that the apostle Paul tarried here three days, after being shipwrecked on the neighbouring island of Malta or Melita, as it was anciently called. It is certain there were churches here very early, we read of them in the second and third centuries, and in the time of Constantine, at the beginning of the fourth century, there was a church in the city, of which Crespus was bishop, to whom the emperor wrote a letter himself, which is still extant in Eusebius. Had the

small, and still used for the celebration of mass. Above is another church, or rather chapel, of modern date, adjoining to which stands an ancient Gothic wall, ornamented with an handsome window. From the lower church, we were conducted into the catacombs, which are said to extend as far as the ancient city, and are not less curious than those at Naples. After traversing a long passage, in the sides of which are niches for the dead, we came to a round hall, about twenty feet in diameter, and tapering like a cone to the top, which seems to have been formerly open. From the hall, are three or four passages, leading to other halls of the same kind, and so on through labyrinths, that no mortal has the cou-

the Christians in those days discovered the *amazing antiquity* of the Etna lava, they would hardly have suffered persecution for the cross of Christ.

rage to explore. The tombs in the passages are formed one behind another, and extend backwards into the rock, to the number of twenty-five in a row. The halls, it is supposed, were intended for families of distinction. In the midst of some is a large tomb for the chief, and around are cavities for the rest of the family. There are a few ornaments remaining, and one or two Greek inscriptions.

In the modern town, which is now confined to the island Ortygia, is a new church, made out of an old Grecian temple, dedicated to Mercury; some of the pillars are antique, in the Tuscan style. Of the same kind are two others, now in the wall of a private house, but which formerly belonged to a temple of Venus.

In

In some conversation which we had with the baron, he informed us, that it was his intention to visit England next year, and desired to know whether we travelled upon camels, or by any more convenient mode of conveyance. He was not very well adapted for a Cicerone, for though a native of Syracuse, he had not visited the antiquities for several years, and never but once in his life; however, he procured us a juvenile antiquarian, who, by the assistance of the baron's brother-in-law acting as prompter, went through his part pretty well. The last of these gentlemen, who, in all other respects, seemed to be a man of sense and veracity, informed us, that the ice had been strong enough this winter to *bear an ox*, and was *a foot in thickness*. If he made no greater excursions from Syracuse than the baron, he might possibly

bly (not knowing the effects of a moderate frost) fancy all this the production of a cold morning. But such severity of weather is, without doubt, unknown in thirty-seven degrees of north latitude; certain I am, that in latitude thirty-eight, and that at Palermo, the ice in the severest part of the winter was never thicker than half a crown, and even that was reckoned very extraordinary, ice at Palermo being a sight as wonderful as an horse at Venice.

We took a walk after dinner to a convent of Capuchins, about a mile out of town, where there is one of the most uncommon and delicious gardens imaginable. It lies in a deep quarry, hewn into irregular forms, with rude arches of great dimensions, cut through in different parts. The rock is soft, and being worn away in several places,

appears almost natural. The area is filled with oranges, lemons, citrons, olives, pomegranates, vines, and almonds, all of which were planted by one monk, who died a few days before our arrival, aged eighty-six. Indian figs and ivy hang down from the top, and add much to the picturesque scenery of that romantic spot. By the sea side the foundations of ancient buildings are easily to be discovered, and we found many fragments of Grecian earthenware mixed with the shells and pebbles upon the shore. The rocks contain various kinds of fossils, of which there are great quantities in this island. Serene and warm; a little rain in the morning. Bright evening. E. S. E.

CATANIA,

CATANIA, March 4:

AFTER having afforded two good meals to a very flourishing colony of fleas, we left Syracuse at day-break, and, except passing the promontory on which Augusta is situated, and which is better cultivated than the neighbouring country, returned by the road we came. All things went so smoothly for the first sixteen or eighteen miles, that we very naturally entered into a conversation upon the *conveniences* of travelling in Sicily, and had just resolved to advise some of our friends who intended making the same tour, not to put themselves to the expence of engaging campieri, when one of our's turned sharply about and galloped full speed, to rescue the men who were behind with the baggage from an armed man on horseback, who had

commanded them to turn the mules back, and not to cry out upon pain of death. The robber, upon seeing our guard, rode off to two of his companions, who were waiting with guns at a little distance.

We met with a second alarm, which might, in almost any other situation, have been attended with dangerous consequences; for as our cattle were trotting, which they scarcely ever did, our carriage was thrown over into the sea, providentially upon the sand, where there was very little water, so that we did not receive the smallest injury.

We arrived here a little after sunset, tired with our long journey (forty-six miles) over the most uncultivated part of Sicily. There is an hawthorn now in flower that seems to be of the same

same sort as the Glaftenbury ; and as this country is directly opposite the western side of Judea, it is *as reasonable* to suppose, that a seed was transported hither, as that Joseph of Arimathea's staff took root in England.

The lilies now in flower are various and beautiful. The most common sort grows to the height of three or four feet, and has many branches ; the flower is white, streaked with purple down the middle of each leaf. Another, of which species I have seen one only, is white and small ; and a third yellow, tipp'd with a bright glossy red on the three lower petals, which turn downwards in a curve. The blue iris is common, but much lower than in our gardens, as also the marygold, the purple blue anemone, and a large daisy with dark brown seeds, surrounded by

N

a star

a star of bright red leaves. These, and a few more, embellish the Sicilian plains in the depth of winter. Among the wild herbs is the asparagus; but the plants are so slender, that in England we should not judge them worthy of a place at our tables. There are sugar-canes in the neighborhood of Syracuse, and in some other parts of the island; but though they are said to thrive well, the people take little pains to cultivate them, so that sugar is no article of commerce with the Sicilians. The pistachio nut, which grows on the southern coasts, turns to some profit. We were told at Palermo that this tree would not flourish upon that side the island, but our friend Mr. Tough says the experiment has been never tried. However, it is a known fact that one of these plants will never grow single, but the male and female must stand within

within a very small distance of each other. The leaf much resembles that of the common liburnum.

Near Syracuse are many stones, and some of them large, that appear to have been the production of a volcano; and if my information be right, there was one formerly about two miles from the city; a few years ago some acres of ground in the same neighborhood sunk down, I presume into one of the caverns produced by volcanic eruptions. Mild morning, evening cloudy and cold. Ther. 65. N.E.

MESSINA, *March 6.*

AT Catania is one of the best inns in all Sicily, *il Leone d'oro*. The land-

lord of which, Don Lorenzo Abbate, (commonly known there by the name of *Cacca Sangue*) was our Cicerone to Syracuse, and was of some, though not much use. We travelled our former road yesterday over streams of ancient lava, and lay at a small town, where there is a great manufactory of macaroni. To our great surprize we found a clean comfortable house, where I ventured to trust myself in sheets, and passed the night unmolested by vermin.

This morning we rose before day-break, and by that means got a view of the fire of Etna. It was a dim red light, like the sun in a thick fog, and seldom continued visible for two minutes together; though I am told it sometimes flames majestically, even when there is no eruption. It is impossible

possible to conceive any thing more tremendously noble than the appearance of this volcano, according to the poet's description :

—Sed horrificis juxtà tonat Etna ruinis.
Interdumque atram prorumpit in æthera nubem,
Turbine fumantem piceo et candente favilla :
Attollitque globos flammarum, et sidera lambit :
Interdum scopulos avulsaque viscera montis
Erigit eructans, liquefactaque saxa sub auras,
Cum gemitu glomerat, fundoque exæstuat imo.

VIRG. ÆN. III. l. 571.

We passed again by the village of Giardini, and stopt at the door of the benevolent priest, to thank him for his civilities ; but as he was from home, a multitude of compliments were lost beyond redemption. Upon a mountain above is a considerable town called Taormina, where there is an amphitheatre, and some other antiquities ; we did not go to the town, but saw the

amphitheatre (of which there are but small remains) *en passant*, as the road lies a little below. We reached home (for such this place seems to be at present) about sun-set, and found several masquerade parties dancing in the street with as much festivity as if Messina were the most prosperous city in the universe, though the day after we left it, at two o'clock in the morning, there was so smart a shock of an earthquake, that a wooden saint was thrown down upon some candles which the people's devotion had lighted up in one of the churches, by which part of the inside was burnt. Even some of the inhabitants were much alarmed, and left their houses; but earthquakes being so common here, the people forget the danger as soon as it is over, and seem to imagine that frequent deliverances insure them from all future calamities.

The spring is forwarder here than at Syracuse, though nearly a degree farther north; and the buds of several trees, particularly the figs and poplars, are now expanding. Bright. Th. 63.

MESSINA, *March 7.*

THE new houses in this town are built exceedingly strong, having the lower story constructed with arches, which are let for shops, and shut up by folding doors the whole size of the arch. In this part of the country are black and white asses, very handsomely variegated. A curious creature of the fish kind was exhibited here yesterday; it had a deep mouth, several rows of teeth, and four long tails. A kind of

glue was emitted from its body, by which it could attach itself to a man so strongly as to kill him. This fish I am told is eatable. The lobsters in these seas are remarkably good; they are nearly of a purple color, which they do not much change by boiling: their bodies are covered with little sharp prickles, which no doubt are a defence against fishes of prey, and they have no claws, at least I never saw one that had, though we have frequently bought them when just taken out of the water. Flying clouds, and cool. N.E.

MESSINA,

MESSINA, *March 8.*

THE Chevalier O'Hara, the Russian consul, who has resided here five years, has given us such a description of Sicily, that we by no means regret that we are about to leave it. The occasional remarks that I have made from time to time, are sufficient to shew, that little of that comfort which we experience in England is felt here. Among the higher classes, there is little domestic happiness, no hospitality, and hardly such a thing as friendship known. External parade is what they chiefly regard, and the *principe* and *principessa*, who place half a dozen laced footmen behind a gaudy carriage, live in dirty houses, almost unfurnished, and rarely receive friends or strangers to their tables. The servants, though fine, are almost without necessaries.

The

The liveries are not their own, and they have but about seven-pence a day to provide themselves with meat, drink, linen, &c. This, at least, is the chevalier's account of the Messinese, but one of our countrymen, who lately spent some months at Palermo, speaks in high terms of the kindness and hospitality with which he was there received, and could we have prolonged our stay at that place, I doubt not but we should have experienced the truth of his assertion.

Beef, mutton, and veal, are hardly ever to be met with, except in Palermo, Catania, and Messina, and even there, are all but very indifferent. The pork indeed is now excellent, though it may be far otherwise in the heat of summer. We have also fine garden-stuff, but the chevalier is persuaded,
that

that what they have in Russia is far better; "the heat (says he, in summing up his miseries) has killed my wife and two children, and there is not a bit of tea or butter to be had." However, all the inhabitants of Messina are not deficient in hospitality, as we have this day had ample proof, by being invited by our banker, Signor Gregorio Faroe, to a very good and plentiful entertainment.

I went out in the evening to see the last flourish of the carnival. The streets were amazingly crowded, as there was a triumphal car, drawn by six horses parading through the streets, and masked figures within it, scattering *bon-bons* or sugar plumbs among the people. The same spectacle was exhibited on Sunday, and having heard a curious description of it, I pressed on with the

mul-

multitude to see the shew. Just as I was turning the corner of the street where it was, I met a vast croud of people, and one of the servants, whose office it was to clear the way, running after them with a drawn sword in his hand, with which he struck the first he could reach, but I believe without hurting him. The enraged populace rushed forward to avenge the insult, and a scuffle ensued, during which, I was pushed into an apothecary's shop, and the door shut upon me. The first thing I saw, was two women all along upon the floor, that I had helped to knock down, but they got up without receiving any injury. I was soon released from my confinement, but do not know how the scuffle ended, as I made the best of my way home, heartily tired of masquerading. Bright morn-

morning, some clouds in the evening.
Ther. 60.

March 9.

I HAVE great reason to be thankful for the temporary imprisonment which I suffered yesterday, as the mob immediately formed two parties, and the quarrel became so serious, that the man who began it lies dangerously ill of the wounds which he received.

We left Messina this morning * in a little coasting vessel, called a sproronara,

* We much regretted leaving Sicily without visiting the antiquities of Gergenti, whither we purposed making our first expedition from Palermo, but there fell such a great quantity of snow and rain at that time, that the men who furnished us with litiga and mules dissuaded us from

nara, which is nothing more than a six-oared boat, with a sail. We crossed over to Regio, fifteen miles, where we waited full half an hour in the street, guarded like criminals, till the governor came from mass, and gave us permission to walk about the town. It is supposed to have obtained its name from the Greek word ῥήγνυμι, *to break*, because *broken off* from Sicily by an earthquake, of which event the poet gives us an intimation in the following lines :

Hæc loca, vi quondam et vastâ convulsa ruinâ
 (Tantum ævi longinqua valet mutare vetustas)
 Dissiluisse ferunt : cum protinus utraque tellus
 Una foret, venit medio vi Pontus, et undis
 Hesperium Siculo latus abscidit : arvaque et urbes
 Littore diductas angusto interluit æstu.

VIRG. ÆN. III. l. 214.

from it, telling us, that we had some deep clay-marshes to go over, which, they feared, would be hardly passable ;
 so

We had at Reggio, upon a smaller scale, the same melancholy view as at Messina: the mortality was less than in most of the neighbouring towns, as only one hundred and twenty persons were killed, of which seventeen were found dead in one house; several perished upon the sea shore, where the waves rose to the height of seventy palms, and threw the bodies into the air, which rested in falling upon the trees and ruins. The coast of Calabria is mountainous like Sicily, though, near Reggio, there is a plain richly planted with oranges, lemons, figs, mulberries, vines, and some palm-trees, much finer than any I have seen in Sicily. The same kind of cultivation is continued up a narrow vale behind the town, in which is a

so we were obliged to lay aside our intention, and afterwards had no time, nor indeed resolution, when we knew the want of accommodations, to put it in execution.

curious

curious labyrinth, composed of orange and lemon trees, bending under the weight of a prodigious quantity of fruit, of the excellencies of which we can speak by experience, as they were presented to us with the most unbounded liberality, and afterwards a glass of *liqueurs* to warm our stomachs. The owner of the garden gains a sequin a year for every tree, except those of the labyrinth, which he never suffers to be unloaded, though he might thereby increase his income one thousand ducats per annum. These oranges are esteemed the best in Europe, not excepting those of Malta.

The article of silk formerly afforded a very considerable branch of commerce to Regio, but it is now almost totally abolished by the weight of taxes imposed by the arbitrary government

of Spain. The proprietors are first obliged to pay the king for the land, then for each tree, and then, when the silk is wrought, five carlins per pound. After all, they are not permitted to dispose of their merchandize any where but at Naples, of which the traders there fail not to take the greatest advantage.

We have been towed from Regio (twelve miles) by two oxen, against the wind and the current of Charybdis, which, though the terror of ancient mariners and the theme of poets *, on account of its great whirlpool, is

* Tum procul e fluctu Trinacria cernitur Etna :

Et gemitum ingentem Pelagi, pulsataque saxa

Audimus longe, fractasque ad littora voces ;

Exultantque vada, atque æstu miscentur arenæ.

Nimirum hæc ille Charybdis

Hos Helenus scopulos, hæc saxa horrenda canebat.

VIRG. ÆN. III. l. 554.

now no longer formidable, nothing appearing but a kind of ruffle on the water, and that so small that little open boats are crossing it every hour, in perfect safety; and indeed the very remembrance of that horrible vortex, which was once so dreaded for sucking in ships, is now so totally obliterated in the neighbourhood of Scylla and Charybdis, that perhaps not one person in a thousand of the present inhabitants has heard that any danger ever attended the navigation of the pass or faro of Messina, as it is now called.

We have got something better than Sicilian accommodation, viz. a tolerably clean room, with chairs and tables, but no beds, so that we must again have recourse to our straw mattresses. Overcast, and cold wind. N. W.

PALMI,

PALMI, *March 10.*

WE were towed twelve miles under the shore to Bagnara, and saw more of the effects of the earthquake, particularly near Scylla, where a large portion of a mountain was broken off and thrown into the sea; some of the new ground has been made into a vineyard, part of which, two years ago, flit down with the plantation, and I think another part will soon follow. The town is in a singular situation, and said (with some propriety) to resemble an eagle, having an high rock for the head, two wings stretched out on each side a promontory, and a tail behind. Many of the houses escaped destruction, but great numbers of people were washed away by the sea, which flowed

half a mile upon the shore, so that 1654 persons perished in this town.

Bagnara, situated on the side of a steep mountain, was entirely overthrown, and 4350 persons killed. It is rebuilding in a manner truly astonishing, when it is considered, that the ground on which it stands is subject to frequent agitations. As it was only ten o'clock * when we arrived at
Bagnara,

* I have all along set down the hours according to the English method of calculation, but, throughout Sicily and Calabria, they regulate the time according to the setting of the sun, by counting the twenty-four hours round. Thus the first hour after sun set is always one o'clock, the second two o'clock, and so on to twenty-four. It has an odd sound to strangers, to hear the people talk of fourteen, fifteen o'clock, &c. and, till one is a little used to it, often causes much confusion; for instance, if in the month of February, you wanted to set off from any place about six or seven o'clock, according to the English way of reckoning time, and were not to accommodate your orders to the usage of the country, your beasts and litiga would be ready for you about midnight;

Bagnara, we endeavored to engage horses to carry us a few miles up the country, to see a lake which was formed by the junction of two mountains, but failing in this attempt, we desired our boatmen to put to sea again, which they refused to do, alledging, that it was too rough, and indeed it must be owned, that the waves broke in upon us so much, in getting our little vessel

night ; and if you wished to have your dinner at two or three o'clock, you would have it about seven or eight at night. Besides, by this way of calculation, it is impossible the clocks should ever go right for a week together ; for, as the hour of sun-setting varies, the clocks must be regulated accordingly. These inconveniences have been found so great, that, although in most parts of Italy they still number the hours round, yet in some of the principal cities, viz. at Turin and Florence, the clocks now go as in England, France, Spain, Germany, &c. and throughout the rest of Europe, for the mode of reckoning from sun-set to sun-set seems peculiar to Italy, Sicily, and Calabria. In others of the great Italian cities, the clocks go both ways, particularly in Rome and Naples, which oftentimes causes more mistakes than by counting the hours round.

on shore, that the boat had like to have been overfet, and it was with no small difficulty, and with the assistance of fourteen or fifteen men, who, after many fruitless attempts, at length caught hold of a rope we threw out to them, that we were able to land. We now went in search of the inn, which was such a miserable, filthy hole, that we resolved to come hither, upon the information, that the distance was only six miles, and that we should find a *very good* inn at our journey's end. We hired a mule to carry a few necessaries (leaving the greater part of our cloaths to come the next morning in the boat), and set out on foot, without arms, trusting ourselves to the mercy of the Calabrian banditti, of whom we had heard the most dreadful accounts. We began our walk by ascending an high mountain, planted from top to bottom
with

with vines, interspersed with groves of young chefnuts, which are much cultivated in this country for the purpose of making hoops for barrels. We were shewn, by the way, a piece of rock that had fallen down, at the time of the earthquake, upon a man and mule, neither of which could afterwards be found.

The duke of Scylla, whose palace at Bagnara was levelled with the ground, went upon the sea in a small boat, which was thrown up into the air, whirled round and round, and then engulfed with all the unfortunate persons that it had contained. On the top of the hill is a fine champaign country, a view of higher hills covered with snow, and planted to their summits, and a noble reach of Sicily, the sea, and faro of Messina, which sweeps like an immense river between the two

shores. We were then near the spot where seven houses were thrown down by an earthquake about two months ago, and had a perspective view of the lake, which we were desirous of visiting from Bagnara. The earth, for the space of two or three miles, seemed to be turned *topsy turvy*, which indeed was literally the case, and we were told that a man at work, with his oxen, was moved two miles without receiving any injury. Upon some parts of this hill the ground sounded hollow under our feet; a circumstance which was remarked in the streets of Messina during the great earthquakes in February 1783, and at no other time.

As a proof that all are not thieves and robbers in Calabria, in one of the most desolate parts of our walk, we were called back by a country fellow,
to

to pick up a great coat, which had dropt unnoticed, and which would otherwise have been lost. Upon descending the mountain, we had a view of the finest plain I have seen since I left Naples, and Palmi at one end, encompassed by woods of olives. Having shared the fate of the neighboring towns, it is quite new, with an handsome square, and a fountain in the middle. Our *good inn*. Alas! alas! our beds are left behind. Cool and cloudy. Ther. at two in an elevated situation, 53.

PALMI, *March 11.*

AFTER many fruitless wishes for a blanket in the various cold dwellings where it was my lot to spend the night,

night, I at length obtained my heart's desire at this place, crept under one last night, and fancied myself very comfortable; but I soon found that this luxury was attended with a degree of pain as well as most others, as legions of fleas, strong and powerful as those at Syracuse, soon issued out from their recesses to feast upon me. This day we have been waiting the arrival of our vessel, which is not yet come, so that we must spend another night in these miserable quarters. So delightful a situation I have seldom seen, but here we cannot remain with any degree of comfort. Rain most of the day, Cool. 4220 perished here.

MONTE

MONTE LEONE, *March 12.*

HAVING obtained my own straw-bed, a better mattrafs, and a clean covering, I ventured to yield last night to the pressing inclinations to sleep, which came upon me occasionally, in spite of half a legion of my former company, and a sharp cold air, which penetrated through all the cloaths I had upon me. About half past six we went to an high point near the town, from whence we could see Bagnara, and our provoking sproronara at rest upon the shore, though the morning was serene and fine. Longer in our dirty inn we would not stay, and therefore sent our Italian back to the boatmen with orders to dismiss them, in case they could not come on in twenty-four hours to ^{the} this place, whither we have travelled ~~fifty~~ miles by land in an exceeding

ceeding good litiga, borne by excellent mules. By this means we have seen a very fine rich country, productive of great quantities of corn, large forests of olives, some fine oaks, and cork-trees of a prodigious size. The ravages of the earthquake appeared on all sides, every town and village having been laid level with the ground, though they are now rebuilding in a superior style to what they were before.

Here again we were promised an inn good and *clean*, and as fully disappointed as at Palmi; having had very little rest for the last three nights, I should have thought it a luxury even to repose myself upon a chair or table; but every article of furniture had so disgusting an appearance, that we turned back into the street, really apprehensive that we should be forced to join in
chorus

chorus, “ My lodging was on the cold
 “ ground.” Happily, my brother spied a
 well drest young man among the crowd,
 and immediately made him acquainted
 with our distress. He seemed, indeed,
 to commiserate our case, but with a
 too significant shrug of the shoulders,
 gave us to understand that to procure
 us a lodging would be extremely dif-
 ficult, if not impossible, most of the
 houses and convents having been either
 thrown down, or so much damaged by
 the great earthquake, as to be yet uninha-
 bitable, and the people generally living in
 barracks; however, our new kind friend,
 after taking a vast deal of pains, has suc-
 ceeded far beyond our expectations.

I observed in our road today an avenue
 of remarkably fine old orange trees, not
 very full of leaves, but covered all over
 with fine fruit. Bright and cold. Ther.
 at half past six, 46; at half past two, 55.

MONTF

MONTE LEONE, *March* 13.

THE young man to whom my brother addressed himself last night, is son to the chief magistrate of the town, and has continued his civilities with the most unremitting attention *. We are lodged in the house of an ecclesiastic, who is a sailor six days in the week, and a priest one. He is also extremely obliging, and all the neighbors are swift as lightning to do us any service, so that we feel ourselves in a great measure repaid for all the difficulties we have lately undergone, by the cordial kindness of these good people.

* This hospitable gentleman shewed us his own ruined house, which had certainly been a very handsome structure, and much lamented that it was not in his power to receive us in it; but he and his wife now occupied a small barrack, which I verily believe he would have constrained us to accept, whatever inconveniences his own family might have suffered, if he had not found us another habitation. In what was called the inn it was impossible for a living creature to lie down, without being speedily covered with other *living creatures* innumerable.

A great deal of cotton grows in this neighborhood, large quantities of which we saw in the husks, exposed for sale in the principal street of the town.

Our servant arrived this morning with our baggage, having dismissed the vessel, paying eighteen ounces (about nine guineas) instead of twenty-eight, for which sum we were to have been taken to Naples. For greater expedition he travelled by night, and learnt by experience that the accounts of the Calabrian banditti were but too true. About eight o'clock, having just passed a small wooden bridge, in a solitary place, he was commanded to stop, instead of which he clapp'd spurs to his horse. He then heard another person cry out *amazzatelo, amazzatelo*, kill him, kill him. Upon this he thought it most prudent to make no resistance, but told

the robbers he had only two ounces, somewhat less than one guinea, which he immediately gave them. After some threats demanding more, and after having rifled a poor man who drove the baggage mule of six carlines, (about three shillings) they went off to some of their comrades, who were waiting at a little distance, suffering our boxes to come on unsearched, as they said money was their only object.

Left some *conscientious* people should think it a meritorious act to murder us, we are obliged to make apologies wherever we turn cooks, for dressing flesh meat in Lent, which I believe some consider as the most heinous of all sins. In many parts, they abstain even from cheese, milk, and eggs, but in this town, a bull has been obtained from the pope to dispense with that
extraor-

extraordinary strictness. No one may presume to touch animal food, unless it be considered as absolutely necessary for his bodily health, and then he must have a written order signed by a physician. At Naples, where the people are less scrupulous, dispensations for the whole season are granted, to whoever chooses to purchase them, and the king receives the money arising from the sale. The price to the poor is only ten grains, or five-pence English; to the rich, twenty-five carlins, or about ten shillings English money.

As soon as we had dined, four of the chief men of the town came to visit us, and kept us in conversation above an hour; after them came two more, and then our civil friend and his brothers, with Signor Abbate, our host. The accounts our visitors have given us of the banditti of this country, afford an alarm-

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ing

ing confirmation of those we have received from other quarters, and which we now know too well, are by no means exaggerated. A man was murdered four days ago, in the same place where our servant was robbed, and that he did not share the same fate, seems to be a matter of much astonishment, to those who have been informed of the circumstances of the attack. We have taken the necessary precautions for the rest of our journey, and trust that through the blessing of the same good Providence, which hath hitherto so mercifully protected us, we shall safely escape from all those difficulties and dangers, to which we are constantly exposed.

The day before we arrived here, a shock of an earthquake was felt, and a few hours after we left Palmi,

there was one there, so that we have hitherto been favored with a passage through this perilous country, without experiencing any of its most direful calamities.

Our civil friend, who is a man of sense and knowledge, has presented us with some complimentary verses, in French, composed upon our arrival, and signed Don Antonio Francesco Ribaldi.

Fourteen persons were killed here by the great earthquake. A sharp frost and ice last night *.

CAS-

* Uncommonly mild as all accounts from England state the winter to have been, so severe a season through all parts of the continent, where we have been, was scarcely ever felt. While we were in Germany, particularly when travelling through the Tyrol, the cold

CASSINO DI NICASTRO, *March 14.*

THE *Procaccio*, or king's carrier, from Naples to Regio, being about to leave Monte Leone this morning with two *campieri*, offered to take us under his protection, which offer we most readily embraced, so having presented our host with two ounces for our quarters, with ourselves, servants, mule-drivers, and one other man, we sallied forth,

was intense, and all the way from Venice to Rome, we found the weather very little warmer; the month of January which at Naples is usually fine and genial, was for the most part cold, wet, and at best variable; and all the time we were in Sicily and Calabria, we had several raw bleak days with frost and snow occasionally; so that my brother, who was advised by his physician to spend the winter in a warm climate, frequently complained of being almost starved to death in pursuit of it; and when he was got into latitude thirty-seven, and found so little difference in the air from what it often is full fifteen degrees more to the north, he gave the matter up, and heartily wished himself by a good Shropshire coal-fire, being fully persuaded, that there was no country whatever
where

forth, twelve in company, and flatter ourselves that such a gallant troop will appear too formidable for the robbers of Calabria.

For the first ten miles, we continued upon the same high ground on which Monte Leone is situated, and then descended to a fine plain, bounded on the left by the sea, and on every other side by lofty mountains. We

where all winter comforts were to be found more than at home. And indeed when we consider, that in Italy and further south, the great object in building their houses is to exclude heat, and that throughout Germany and Swisserland, you are either in danger of suffocation by the sickly unwholesome stench of chamber stoves, when they have been heated any time, or that you must shiver two or three hours before they can be made hot enough to diffuse any warmth through the rooms where they are, and that you never see the fire at all, I say when these things are attended to, I cannot help thinking that those who leave England, in quest of a warm birth to spend the winter, generally find disappointment, instead of the object of their wishes.

took a slight dinner by the way, upon the banks of a clear stream, in a grove of myrtles, intermixed with fine oaks.

Near the same spot stands a new house in ruins, which was thrown down before it was inhabited. The owner was so affected by this calamity, that he died of grief.

We had an agreeable ride in the afternoon, among large woods of olives, encompassing some small fields of green corn, which had an effect peculiarly pleasing, from the assemblage of the different shades. As we drew near the town, which is beautifully situated upon the declivity of a mountain, we fell in with a large party of peasants, returning home with their loaded asses, and nearly dressed in uniform. The distance from Monte Leone to Nicastro, is com-

computed at twenty-five miles, but I think they are very long ones.

We had two miles of rugged ascent, after our arrival at the town, which was represented to us as a nest of robbers and plunderers ; we mounted this long steep hill on foot, comforting ourselves by the way, with the idea of reposing at ease in this Caffino, to the owner of which we had a letter from the naval priest of Monte Leone.

We had, however, the mortification of hearing, upon our arrival, that the house, which consisted of two small rooms, was occupied, but that an adjoining chapel was at our service, if we chose to make use of it. Being no longer nice with respect to lodging, we are thankful for any place that is screened from the air, and barred

against the robbers, and really are now better off than usual, having procured a table to eat off, chairs to sit on, and having a clean floor for our straw beds, five of which, viz. three for ourselves, and two for our servants, we have disposed of in the most convenient manner we were able. My brother's is just before the altar, which is adorned with artificial flowers, and under a lamp which is continually burning before a picture of the Virgin Mary, to whom we shall be more indebted than any others who have paid their devotions to her in this chapel, if she grants us a good night's rest, and keeps us from alarms of the robbers below. I could wish the people had less curiosity, as they indulge themselves in peeping at us through a window, that communicates with the house. They must see our preparations for supper, and perhaps we shall pass

pass for Turks, when our fowls are brought out, as we did at Palmi. We have discovered a little place where some lime is kept near the chapel. Here we have made our fire, and shall dress our victuals. Ice at sun-rise. Cold. Th. 52. N. The oaks here are coming into leaf.

COZENZA, *March 15.*

I WAS so thoroughly tired, that I fell asleep last night in a few minutes, and never waked till I was summoned at half past three this morning, to pursue my journey.

Our little chapel proved a very comfortable bed-chamber. We all slept
much

much better than usual, having been quite unannoyed by vermin of every kind. We well rewarded our host (who had procured the key of the chapel, we suppose, from the priest) for having allotted the consecrated walls to the charitable purpose of receiving and lodging strangers; but when the priest understands that we were English heretics, and that his sanctuary was defiled in lent by our eating broiled fowls in it, he may perhaps think that a mortal sin has been committed: however, as I doubt not but the holy man will have his portion out of what we gave, it may, probably, afford some balm to his conscience to make amends for the profanation of his temple.

We continued to ascend for three or four miles, amidst very fine woods

of

of immense chestnuts and oaks *, and after passing over some snow, had a rapid and bad descent for a short way, through a large forest. Signor Proccaccio was very communicative, and *entertained* us with a variety of stories, representing the perils and dangers he had encountered. “ Just in *that* place
 “ (says he) three years ago, I was
 “ attacked by a gang of fourteen
 “ robbers, and one of my guards shot
 “ dead ; just in *this* I had an encoun-
 “ ter last September with six, three of

* One cannot behold these forests of majestic oaks, in thickness nearly equal to the mahogany-tree, and tall as the firs which grow on the Alps, without lamenting that it is absolutely impossible, in the present state of the country, to make them useful either for building ships or houses, from the extreme difficulty, or rather the impracticability of transporting them over the mountains to the sea-side, the use of wheels being unknown, and even the corn carried on mule’s backs. Surely no true Briton can contemplate these hearts of oak, without exclaiming, Oh, what a treasure would here be to keep up old England’s wooden walls !

“ whom

“whom have since been executed.” Certainly no situation can be more favorable for depredations of this kind, as the grounds are extremely wild and the woods of immense extent.

We continued our course for some miles, amidst the most magnificent scenery imaginable, lamenting the unfavorable season for rural prospects; however, the concern we felt upon this occasion, was counterbalanced by the consideration of our greater safety, as the country people who subsist by plunder, live out of doors in the summer-time, and rob or murder those who have not force sufficient to oppose them.

Our mule-drivers have a singular method of ascending the mountains, viz. by laying hold of the horses tails,

and suffering themselves to be pulled along with very little exertion of their own limbs. This method to me was more eligible than another which they also adopted, viz. of jumping up behind us, whenever they thought it convenient. We descended the mountain through a grove of chefnuts of astonishing magnitude, crossed a picturesque bridge thrown from rock to rock, and then mounted by a narrow dangerous path, to the place of refreshment, a little dirty town, and the first we have seen that has not been injured by the earthquake. We had ten miles farther to this place, through a country singularly beautiful and romantic. It consisted of a jumble of mountainous ground, thickly wooded and richly cultivated, almost covered over with small towns, villages, and cottages, placed in the most picturesque situations imaginable;

able; upon descending to the town, we entered upon a fine carriage road, and saw before us an extensive plain, encompassed by rugged mountains, richly clothed with wood, and crowned on their summits with snow.

Being now arrived at the capital of the higher Calabria, and many miles nearer to the civilized world, it may well be supposed that we are got into comfortable lodgings, and are waiting for the preparation of supper and beds, according to the usual method; but alas! the change is from bad to worse, for of all the filthy holes, called inns, we have yet met with, this is the most abominable; however, there is no remedy, so we must be contented.

The peasants of this country wear yellow jackets with black trousers and buskins.

buskins. The women have their gowns tied up in a knot behind, wide sleeves, and the usual Italian head-dress dropping elegantly down the back. Frost and ice this morning at the Caffino.

MORANO, *March 17.*

BAD as Cozenza was, we enjoyed one luxury there, to which we have long been strangers, viz. a fire-place, about which we assembled to breakfast in the morning, but, before the conclusion of the meal, made a most unfortunate discovery; for besides perceiving a most intolerable stench, in putting down our kettle it pressed upon a soft substance that had long resisted the action of the fire, and which proved

proved to be a portion of human excrement that had been there deposited as in a common necessary.

Cozenfa is a good sized town, but very indifferently built, excepting the convents, some of which make a fine appearance. As we set out yesterday morning, we saw a riding master exercising his scholars, and from the feats which they performed, it seems, that horfemanfhip is no lefs a fcience in Calabria than it is in England.

We continued our journey twenty-five miles, through a rich vale, which is rendered very unwholesome in summer by the overflowings of a river, whose fides are flat and marfhy. We were twice obliged to ford the waters, which were fo deep and rapid that a man walked on each fide the litiga to prevent

prevent us from being carried away. There are always a number of men waiting at the rivers, who transport foot travellers across on their shoulders; which, though a very dangerous operation, on account of the width and rapidity of those rivers, and the large loose stones which are in the water, yet these guides are so expert and careful that seldom any mischief ensues.

Two soldiers upon the road, who were travelling the same way as ourselves, offered us their services, which we did not think proper to refuse, notwithstanding we were already so well defended. Indeed we had some dangerous places to pass, for those low grounds are totally uninhabited, and so over-run with myrtles and other thick evergreens, that an ingenious robber might spring upon a straggler quite

unawares. The house where we lay last night is erected merely for the *accommodation* of travellers, and is such a curious tottering old structure, that the slightest shock of an earthquake would immediately level it with the ground. We preferred *this inn* to one four miles nearer Cozenza, that had two days before been robbed by twelve ruffians, who stripped it of every thing, and used the woman who lived in it so ill, that she has ever since been confined to her bed by the bruises she received from them, though happily she is in no danger of death. One room where the meat was cooked, the bread baked, and where the fowls roosted, was for the greatest part of the evening, the only place we could find to sit in; and our company—mulemen, soldiers, a Neapolitan fiddler, and two poor young men, who kept the house, doomed to

speedy

speedy death by the effects of a Malaria fever *. As there was a great fire, but no chimney, the walls and roof were black as jet, and curiously adorned with cobwebs, furred by foot in a manner really beautiful. After all the inconveniences we had experienced, we were still too nice to submit to sleep in that apartment, and with that company, and therefore, without ceremony, searched the whole house for another chamber, and we found three, but the floor of one was so full of holes that there was danger of falling through; another was previously engaged by the pigs, one of

* This fever rages in the campagna of Rome, and in all the low grounds in the south of Italy, during the heat of summer, and usually terminates in a dropsy, from which the patient very rarely recovers. One night in such situations is fatal to a stranger, and it seldom happens that the natives themselves continue many months free from its attacks.

which, that lay concealed under some dirty straw, jumped up suddenly and gave a great snort, just as my nephew was congratulating himself on the comfortable birth he had found out; the third room was a granary some inches deep in dust; we made choice of the last, swept away some of the filth, and sat down to supper, highly pleased with our discovery. As the musician was likely to keep fast in the strictest sense, we invited him to partake of our provision, which he eat with a very good appetite, and was so polite as to agree with us, that the church of Rome imposed too great a burden upon her members, in enjoining them *to abstain from meats which God had commanded to be eaten*. Morning bright and warm, with sirocco wind. Evening windy and cloudy. Th. at half past twelve, 63.

The first scene that presented itself upon entering the *black hole* this morning, was our company, arranged upon the floor in a very orderly manner, and all fast asleep (though several cocks that roosted over their heads were crowing amain almost incessantly); some were wrapt up with a small quantity of additional clothes, and others without any thing, had fallen asleep with as much ease as a dog upon a stone floor.

We set out through a narrow vale, filled with low underwood, where our litiga-men seemed very apprehensive of robbers, and would not proceed unless the four guards kept close with us; they carried their guns ready to discharge, and looked so much like a cock-shooting party, that I could hardly persuade myself they had any other game in view.

We continued our route for several miles through woods, sometimes thick, and sometimes more open, with noble timber trees, bated at a neat house at the end of twelve miles, and then ascended considerably, over wild, diversified grounds, till we passed between two rocky hills into a sweet little vale, enclosed by snowy mountains. In this delightful situation we found Morano, a curious town upon the side of a steep round hill.

The prevailing color in this part of the country is red; eighteen men, who were at work together in a vineyard, were in exact uniform, with red waistcoats, and dark breeches and stockings. The women and children of the village are dressed in a singular manner. Their garments are red, bound with green. The hair is divided

vided before, according to the fashion of some modern bucks of the high ^{pp}*tibby*, and ornamented, or rather disfigured, by a strange thing stuck behind, which, for me, must ever remain a non-descript. Bright with hot gleams. Ther. at twelve, 60. The fine weather which we enjoy at present has brought the lizards out of their winter recesses. They are about eight inches long, of a brilliant green, spotted with gold, and the head of a fine burnished blue. The medicine called Venice Treacle is composed of the flesh of these animals, and others of the serpent kind, boiled to a jelly.

CASTEL LUCE, *March 18.*

OUR inn last night was, in comparison of our usual fare, capitaliy good. We had a fire-place adapted *to no other purpose*, and I lay in my clothes between sheets, without being disturbed by a single flea.

More company joined us this morning, and the procaccio doubled his guard to conduct us safely through the most dangerous pass in all Calabria. The whole party together amounted to twenty-seven. We ascended by a very fine carriage road up an high mountain, near the region of snow which lay thickly on the top. We then came upon a plain, about three miles long, surrounded with higher craggs. The corn in this elevated situation is at least six weeks later than that in the vale below; on the uncultivated parts are many purple crocuses,

cuses, of the same kind as those that ornament our English gardens.

Upon leaving this plain, we entered the terrific pass. It is a deep chasm between towering mountains, darkened by the thickest shade, so that a small party of robbers, by securing a good situation on the higher parts, may begin an attack upon a large company without the least fear of being overcome, as they might easily escape among the thickets, should the travellers attempt to climb the rocks, and make them prisoners. We descended by a very rugged path, which led us out of the chasm to a forest of noble oaks, and then entering upon a fine new road, soon arrived at Rotunda, a little town so called from its singular situation, being built upon a conical hill, detached from all others, and not unlike Glastonbury Tor hill in Somersetshire. After

ter a little refreshment, we continued our journey along the same fine road through a most enchanting vale to this place, (twenty miles from Marona) where we seem to have got a tolerable inn.

We have now taken our leave of the two Calabria's, so famous for their desperate banditti, and surely the most savage country in Europe. Every traveller we met carried arms, and the very peasants walked in companies with guns upon their shoulders. A chevalier of Malta was murdered not long since upon the same road that we have passed over in safety, which occasioned a friend of his, who arrived at Messina while we were there, to engage no less than twelve guards to accompany him.

Our musical companion has given us such an unfavorable account of Sproro-

naras, that since it has pleased God to protect us by land, we do not regret having left ours at Bagnara. He was thirty-seven days going from Naples to a place thirteen miles on this side Cozenza, and was once so near a vessel manned by Algerine pirates, that they presented their musquets at him. Had it been our lot to have visited Africa, we should probably have experienced greater hardships than ever we did in Calabria. What *might* have happened, convinces me that the wise Disposer of *all* events has guarded our every step by his providential care, and has made us acquainted with the magnitude of our danger, that we may the more acknowledge his goodness in delivering us from it. We have been wonderfully supported during the whole journey, and even enjoyed a more than usual share of health. A mercy for which

we

we can never be sufficiently thankful.

This inn contains a very decent kitchen, tolerably well furnished with the implements of cookery. The fireplace is near the middle, constructed of bricks, of a square form, and elevated about a foot from the floor. A large quantity of fuel is now consuming upon it, yet there is no chimney, so that the room is almost constantly filled with smoke. Bright and calm. N. Ther. 62.

CASAL NUOVO, *March 19.*

Good as our inn at Castel Luce appeared to be, I was once more almost devoured with fleas, from which I made my escape at three o'clock this morning.

After

After ascending another mountain, we came down to a vale as romantic and beautiful as any we have seen. At the upper end stands Lauria, under rocks, covered with evergreen shrubs. The town is divided into two parts by a bold projection of the hill, which has a castle upon its highest point; near the base issues a copious stream, which rushes with great rapidity under the fragment of an old arch. We began again to ascend upon leaving Lauria, along a very ~~strong~~^{stony} path, and through woods of prodigious fine oaks. We noticed a small lake in a very elevated situation, the bottom of which, as our conductors informed us, could never be found.

About two o'clock we reached a small town called Lago Nero, from whence the great carriage road is continued

tinued to Naples. The best, and indeed the only vehicle we have been able to procure here, is a two wheel'd chaise, drawn by a pair of mules, which never trot, but walk, at the rate of about four miles an hour. We have come ten miles through a fine wild country to a single house, where we are likely to fare tolerably well.

From Lago Nero to the entrance into Naples is exactly ninety-eight miles, and about a hundred to the king's palace, during the whole of which the road is finer than can well be imagined, being not only broad and even, but carried through the mountains at an enormous expence. . Wherever we met with any carriage road before this, it was only for a few miles, as far as a particular district extended, but it was all equally good, or if possible better,

no wheels whatever having been upon it, though part of it has been made more than ten years; and till it be all joined, (which had it not been for the dreadful havock and depopulation made by the great earthquake about eight years ago, would probably have been the case before this time) no carriage can go over those parts which are yet untouched to those that are finished; however, it is going on in different places with great spirit and vigor. We saw not less than two or three hundred people at work with barrows, spades, picks, baskets, &c. the latter of which were chiefly carried by women and children, which are so very numerous throughout Calabria, that it is no uncommon sight to see from fifteen to twenty in one house, or about the door. And indeed when we consider that the women

men

men marry at twelve or thirteen years of age, and continue to breed as long as those in more northern climates, we cannot wonder at the great population we see in every part of this country, nor that it should so soon recover from the desolations made by earthquakes. Foggy till eight, then bright, calm and hot. Ther. on the mountain, 65.

March 20.

OUR accommodations now begin to improve, as new houses have been built by the side of the new road, the towns in general being too close to admit the passage of carriages: we have not yet, however, forsaken our straw, which is very convenient when there is little time for rest, as it saves the trouble of undressing and dressing. We
rose

rose again a considerable time before day-break, and travelled twenty miles over an high plain between mountains, very well cultivated and very populous. I could see seven towns at one view, two of them pretty considerable, and all within a circle of twelve or fourteen miles. The plain terminates abruptly, in an almost perpendicular rock, where the road has been made with amazing labor. It is formed in a zigzag, and built up with high walls of a prodigious thickness. From thence a flat bridge, constructed after the manner of an aqueduct, with two rows of arches, crosses a roaring torrent, and forms a communication with another rock, which, for half a mile or more, was blown up with gunpowder. All the galley slaves were brought from Naples, to accomplish this surprizing work. At the foot of the hill a large

R

spring

spring rushes with some fall out of a deep cavern, which, as we were informed, proceeds from a lake three miles off, upon the mountain.

We continued our course thro' a charming country, and arrived in good time at this place, another single house, in a very high situation. Here the customs of *civilized* Italy seem to begin, as the landlord has demanded an exorbitant price for his room, though he has nothing to offer us to eat, and with a shrug of the shoulders, lowered it to our pleasure, upon our threatening to go forward. There is something like a justice's meeting in the house, and a great number of people, who are come to give in their evidence, respecting a murder. Fine bright morning, heavy clouds from noon till night, and a deal of distant thunder. Ther. on the plain, 60.

SALERNO,

SALERNO, *March 21.*

I HAD suffered so much from vermin in Sicily and Calabria, that I durst not trust myself any more in a suspicious place, lest they should rush out from ambush, and seize upon me unawares; on which account, though the *rogue's* beds seemed pretty clean, I once again laid myself down upon straw, and comforting myself with the thoughts, that it would probably be the last time, slept profoundly till half past two, when I was rouzed to prepare the breakfast, which we constantly took previous to setting out.

We reached Evoli, a town twelve miles off, at an early hour, regaled ourselves with some milk and cheese, which we found on inquiry was the produce of buffaloes, many of which

ugly animals we saw feeding in the neighborhood: some of the cheese we bought to carry with us to England. After our repast we dismissed our two-wheeled carriage, and hired two calashes, or one horse chaises, to carry us sixteen miles over a plain to Pestum, an ancient Grecian city, where there are three Doric temples, built upon the same plan as that at Segesta, though the style of architecture be somewhat different. Two of them have the same number of pillars, and the third a few more. The most perfect seems to contain a temple within a temple, a kind of *sanctum sanctorum*, inclosed on the sides, but open at the ends. The pillars are all fluted. The interior ones consist of two stories, but only two of the upper ones are remaining. In the largest, a row of pillars seems to have gone down the middle. The walls of the town form
 nearly

nearly a square; they are broad enough for two carriages to go a-breast, and still remain by places to the height of four or five feet. The gates are also to be seen, and three square towers, two in ruins, and one perfect. Some of the largest stones are very curious, not unlike a mass of petrified bones, as they are an assemblage of pipes, connected together by stony particles. They were probably taken out of some cavern, and I understand, there is a large one near the sea, from whence materials for the building of the city were collected. While I was walking upon the walls, I saw an enormous black viper, which I should suppose was not less than four feet in length, but as it fled upon my approach, I had a very imperfect view of it.

At this place we were agreeably surprized, by meeting two English gentlemen, Mr. O Donnel, and Mr. Dalton, with whom, previous to this interview, we had not the pleasure of being acquainted. Upon enquiring of them if there was any news at Naples, Mr. Dalton informed us, “ that great
“ apprehensions were entertained re-
“ specting the safety of Sir Richard
“ Hill, and his company, who were
“ supposed to have been taken by the
“ Algerines. Perhaps, (added he) you
“ can inform us if the account be
“ true.” My brother smiled, and assured them, “ he was happy to afford
“ them at that moment, ocular demon-
“ stration to the contrary.” Having heard much of the banditti, they were completely armed to stand on the defensive, in case of an attack, even whilst they were viewing the temples,
but

but they might have saved themselves the trouble, and the apprehensions, as there is no danger of this sort, from the time you are out of the higher Calabria, and indeed we had dismissed our soldiers ever since we left Lago Nero.

The first part of the road from Evoli to Pestum, nearly as far as the ferry, is made very good for a carriage; there are, however, some deep miry holes to pass, as well as a few miles of clay ground, which are at least very disagreeable, on which account I would advise all who go from Naples to Pestum by land, to make choice of a dry season for that purpose.

The inn at Pestum (though it appeared a palace to us) is a very bad one, and 'tis most probable nothing to

eat can be had there. I would therefore advise all my countrymen, whose curiosity may excite them to visit these magnificent temples, to sleep the first night at Salerno, where there are two good inns, to set off very early next morning for Pestum, to carry some refreshment with them, to see the antiquities, (which will not take more than two hours to the most curious observer, during which time their horses will be baited at the *bofteria*, or public house,) and to return to Salerno at night.

In this way our kind friends before-mentioned easily performed the journey in the month of March last, when they gave us every cause to remember as well as to be thankful for the rencontre, for they not only entertained us most hospitably at the Pestum inn with

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an admirable piece of cold roast beef, which they carried with them from Naples, (a curiosity which we had not seen since our departure from that city) but presented us with a bottle of excellent white hermitage, which Mr. O'Donnel had brought from France.

We returned in our calasches to Evoli, from whence we have travelled like gentlemen another sixteen miles, in a handsome coach, drawn by four excellent horses to this place, and with no small pleasure anticipate the idea of having a comfortable meal, and reposing ourselves in some good beds, that are now preparing for us. The payment for our quarters, or according to the Sicilian phrase, *per l'incommodo* (for the inconvenience we caused) has always been left to our generosity, which I believe, generally exceeded all expectation,

tion, as the wretched poverty of the people commonly drew half a guinea or more, according to English money, from our pockets. Future travellers may, perhaps, complain of our *spoiling the inns*, but I am sure they would excuse us, if they knew the various scenes of distress we met with. One woman, who had many small children, declared with the warmest expressions of gratitude, that she had been presented with a fortune, and would fain have kissed my brother's hands, clothes, or feet, which is the frequent method of shewing respect. What is the common sum given upon those occasions, we discovered from the generosity of our fellow-traveller, the musician, who presented the men of the *mal-aria* house with two grains, or an halfpenny, for his lodging, and a couple of eggs.

Last

Last night, when we were got upon the new road, we perceived that Italian customs began to take place, as I have already observed, when speaking of the charge made by our *conscientious* host, though we brought our own supper with us, and dressed it ourselves.

We must, however, do our landlord here the justice to say, that he was not unreasonable in his demand, though, for fear of disputes, we thought it best to make our bargain for supper, beds, &c. as we had always done when we travelled in Italy. He told us his fixed price, *per i padroni*, or the masters, was fifteen carlins, (about six shillings of our money) per head, repast, lodging, wine, and every thing else, included. To this, we made no objection, and found our inn (Antonio, or as it was written over the sign "*Monju Antonio*")
clean,

clean, comfortable, and good. As I am on the subject of making bargains at inns, I must observe, that all throughout Italy, in going from one great town to another, we found it absolutely necessary, not only to make agreement, for our supper and lodging, but for fire, and a morsel of bread, and a raw egg in the morning, the yolk of which we used to beat up with cold water, by way of succedaneum for cream in our tea; whenever this was omitted, a dispute generally took place, and perhaps the value of two or three shillings more was insisted on, as the egg and bread for our tea were not taken into the *patto*, or compact.

But *a propos* of our tea-drinkings; at least, to say a little more concerning them, whether *a propos* or not. I have mentioned before that our tea was exceedingly

ceedingly useful to us, and that my brother esteemed it among his chiefest comforts in the eatable or drinkable way, is pretty evident from his asking our Italian servant, as soon as he found he was far more frightened than hurt by the robbers, “*whether the tea was safe,*” though indeed we had then but a small quantity left, having been quite too lavish of so great a treasure when Mr. Tough first made us the present at Palermo, upon the supposition that we should return to Naples some weeks sooner than we did. Our seasons, however, for regaling ourselves with this refreshing liquor, were very uncertain. If we found ourselves besieged by an army of nocturnal invaders, thirsting for our blood, we would pull off and shake our shirts, dress ourselves, boil our kettle, drink tea, and set off two or three hours sooner than

we intended, in hopes of finding better quarters. Where we could get no beds, or only one among us, (as was the case before we had our own bags made to put straw in) they whose turn it was to sit up, mended the fire, boiled the water, and made tea, an operation which at the house where the *deaf* man and his *bawling* wife lived, really continued the whole night. However, I here got some sleep, and might have had more, had I not been prevented by my nephew's incessant bursts of laughter, and the sickness of those who had made too free with the sweet wine.

And now more *a propos* of wine than of tea. The wines throughout Sicily and Calabria are for the most part bad and unwholesome, being either sweet or sour, excepting some of the wine about Syracuse, when it has been

long kept, which causes much of the luscious sweetness to go off, and gives it the flavour of a very fine rich madeira; but there is now very little of this wine to be got; malt liquor, brandy, rum, cyder, or cow's milk, there are none.

Salerno is an handsome town, built at the foot of a mountain, upon the shore of a very spacious bay, with a large fertile plain extending from it towards the south, but from the vapors arising out of this rich flat, it is esteemed a very unhealthy place during great part of the year. Mild bright day.

NAPLES,

NAPLES, *March 22:*

IN our road to this city we passed through Vietri, which is a remarkably neat, pretty town, most beautifully situated about two or three miles nearer Naples than Salerno, but much more healthy and wholesome, especially in the summer time, when on account of its height, and the refreshing breezes from the sea, it is perhaps the most agreeable and eligible place in all Italy for an English family who seek retirement rather than company to spend the hot months.

Though Pompeia, Portici, Herculaneum and Vesuvius were directly in our road, yet as we had visited all these in former excursions from this city, and as they are no part of Calabria, to which, and Sicily, it was my intention to confine these observations, and particularly

ticularly as so many more able pens have been employed in describing these places, I shall not intrude my remarks on them upon the public, yet cannot help adding a word by way of lamenting that so little progress is made in the discoveries at Pompeia, especially as there is an absolute certainty of immediately finding many curious and valuable pieces of antiquity, the search having been put a stop to when the workmen were employed in removing the ashes and rubbish under which the city was buried by the eruption of Vesuvius, out of a long, wide street, where the houses and shops on each side remained almost entire, the paintings on the walls quite fresh and beautiful, and the marks of the carriage wheels, which have worn away the pavement, as perfect as in the time when the city was full of inhabitants, and in its pristine

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glory.

glory. A few men are indeed at work near the entrance, but alas! the Neapolitan monarch has not sufficient taste for virtù and antiquities to prevail with him to have the business set about with any degree of spirit and vigor.

During the time of our Sicilian tour, not many days after we had left Naples, there was a considerable eruption of Vesuvius, but nothing equal to that in the preceding year: however, we were very sorry to have lost so magnificent a sight; for though this mountain be but a child in comparison of the gigantic Etna, and its streams and pieces of lava but rivulets and mole-hills, when put in competition with the mighty torrents and mountains which flow from and are raised by the great Sicilian volcano, yet, in one respect, even what may be called a small eruption

tion of Vesuvius exhibits an appearance beyond what Etna can ever boast, and that is by lighting up the city and bay of Naples, with the town of Portici and the opposite hills, covered with white houses, gardens, and vineyards, so as by night to form, perhaps, one of the grandest spectacles in the world.

I cannot conclude without once more expressing the gratitude we feel to that gracious Providence which has protected us thro' so many dangers, and restored us again to our former abode and comforts, which we now enjoy with peculiar satisfaction and delight. Much rain till past twelve o'clock, afterwards remarkably fine and genial*. Wind N. W. Our

* The reader may have remarked, that in my observations on the weather throughout this tour, I have seldom mentioned the wind being in the south, which Captain Chianchi told us it rarely was at this season of the

Our stay here, however, will now be short, having seen every thing worthy notice before we set out for Sicily: It is therefore our intention to return back to Rome, in order to be present at the celebration of the holy week, and for this purpose we have already written to our banker, the Marquis de Belloni, to procure us a lodging, though we are told there may be much difficulty in getting one, a prodigious concourse of strangers from all parts being already gone thither.

year. However, our Neapolitan musician (whom we left with the procaccio and soldiers) constantly fancied there was a change in the wind whenever he found one in himself; thus being pretty bulky, if he had made himself perspire copiously by descending from his beast, and tugging on foot up a steep hill, he cried out, *Scirocco, scirocco, fa gran' caldo; il vento e cambiato*: an exclamation which we heard the oftener, as the mule of this son of Orpheus having at least as much penetration as his rider, had the good sense to kick and wince with all his might whenever he found the gentleman going to remount, in order to ease himself of his burden as long as he could.

P O S T-

P O S T S C R I P T.

THE ceremonies of the passion week, or as it is called at Rome *La Settimana Santa*, having been by far more brilliant the last year than usual, on account of the pope having been honored by a visit from the king and queen of Naples, and from the *Mesdames* of France, I flatter myself that the following extract from my journal during that period, including our excursion to Tivoli, may not be unacceptable.

ROME, *April* 17, 1791.

THIS day (Palm Sunday) we went to the Sixtine chapel in the Vatican palace, where we saw the pope seated under a canopy, dressed in a robe of crimson satin laced with gold. All the cardinals that were not confined by illness attended upon this occasion, and entered the chapel in great state, having their trains borne by their domestics. They then knelt down one by one, and kissed the sacred toe, while the robes of his holiness were held up by one of his attendants, after which they received from the pope's hands a branch of palm-tree, elegantly ornamented with straw-coloured ribbons. Others (I believe any body that chose it, who was in full dress) were admitted to the same honor, but instead of palm they were

only

only presented with olive branches, without any ribbons.

This ceremony being over, his holiness was mounted in a magnificent chair, and carried in procession by twelve men, holding in his own hand the most splendid of all the branches, decorated like his chair, with crimson and gold.

ROME, *April 19.*

As no ceremonies took place yesterday, we went to see Tivoli, eighteen miles eastward of this city; all but the two last miles are over the Campagna, which on account of its low situation is so subject to the mal-aria, that the few inhabitants destined to cultivate the

foil may be rather said to linger out than enjoy life.

The earth in places appears burnt, and sounds hollow; and there is in one part a considerable stream, so strongly impregnated with sulphureous particles, that the effluvia are carried by the wind to the distance of three or four hundred yards. The stench is hardly supportable, and the pungency little inferior to that of salts.

The town of Tivoli, once a place of great note, but now inconsiderable, is beautifully situated upon the side of the Apennine hills. It is famous for one of the finest cascades in Europe, different views of which have been taken by most of the landscape painters in Italy. The Tiberone, called by Horace Anio, of which it is composed,
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and which is about the size of the Avon at Bath, first takes one moderate leap about twenty feet, and thence a few yards farther precipitates itself under the arch of a bridge with great rapidity among broken rocks, which close by degrees, and conceal it from view, till it foams again into sight from under a great natural vault, called Neptune's cave. It there finds a small shelf, or ledge, from whence it falls again as high as the first time. The magnificence of the scenery is at this place increased by a collateral stream, which tumbles from an high perpendicular rock. These two currents, thus joined, shortly fall again; and once more after that, force their way through a vast stony mass, which lies across their channel. This little sequestered spot, amidst the roar of so many cascades, and so closely embraced by rocks and mountains,

mountains, is surely the highest treat that a lover of romantic prospects can enjoy. There are indeed few large trees to ornament the scene, but a variety of shrubs, and some vineyards.

The flower-de-luce, both white and purple, grows here in great quantities; and there is also a beautiful pale red flower, in all respects similar to the medea, except its color.

On the top of one of the hills are the remains of an ancient temple, commonly called the Temple of the Sibyl, but some suppose, from its being of a round form, emblematical of the figure of the earth, that it was dedicated to Vesta. It was originally encompassed by eighteen fluted pillars of the Corinthian order, six of which are still remaining. The interior diameter is
twenty-

twenty-two feet. It stands in a court behind the inn, where is one of the best situations for viewing the cascade. Another small temple was erected near it, but the remains are now very trifling.

Some of the rocks are waved and indented in a very curious and beautiful manner, and were probably composed by the spray of the cascade, which carried with it minute particles of sand, and in process of time deposited a sufficient number to form a solid mass. I can upon no other principle account for the petrification of a carriage wheel which took place on this spot. The wheel itself, indeed, exists no more, but the incrustations formed round the spokes, the circumference and the nave, correspond so exactly to the respective parts, that no doubt

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doubt can be entertained, that a real wheel was once inclosed within them. After all, I must own that I am not quite satisfied with this explanation of the case, as other rocks, at least a mile distant from the cascade, appear to be composed after the same manner, though there be not at present any water near them; they are, however, upon the declivity of the hill, and might formerly have been washed, by one of the collateral branches of the Anio.

In a vineyard near the town, are the remains of Mæcenas's grand villa, consisting of three rows of arches on the edge of a precipice; a fine stream now runs through them, and soon joins others that tumble down the steep rocks in various parts. The extent of this villa affords a sufficient proof, that Horace

race

race never paid too great a compliment to the dignity of his patron, whatever he might do to his merit. One pillar of a temple of Bacchus, is shewn near the entrance of the vineyard.

Upon leaving this classic ground, we took a walk in a very formal garden, belonging to the duke of Modena, who has a large old palace at Tivoli, which, though delightfully situated, is at present uninhabited, and much out of repair.

Such was our entertainment yesterday; we suffered much from the heat of a Roman April, but having a comfortable inn at the Sybil, were sufficiently refreshed to see the remaining curiosities of Tivoli, and its environs this morning.

We set out upon asses, and after an agreeable ride of two miles, came in
view

view of a waterfall, which because less than the great torrent at Tivoli, is called *cascadella*. It consists of a large sheet of water, which presents itself to the eye through a grove of olives, and soon dividing, falls down a vast broken precipice. About a quarter of a mile farther, are four more cascades, tumbling down the same hill, two of them indeed comparatively small, but in any other situation, they would be considered as extremely fine. These, with the remains of Mæcenas's villa, on the brow of the hill above, have chiefly employed the brush of the painter, and are considered by many as the most beautiful, but, if I may be allowed to turn connoisseur upon the merits of a cascade, I shall pronounce the first near the temple, the most picturesque, since that issues from the bosom of the mountain, whilst these only fall from its side.

We

We crossed the valley over an ancient consular bridge, again ascended by an old Roman road, and met our carriage at a small round temple, dedicated to the goddesses of COUGHING.

We next went to Adrian's villa, an immense pile of ruins, at the bottom of the hill, where most of the best antiquities preserved in the different museums at Rome have been discovered. We were here shewn the remains of two amphitheatres, part of the soldier's barracks, which consisted of an hundred chambers, all of the same dimensions, connected with each other, rooms for the slaves, with some fragments of temples, besides a large inclosed hollow, once filled with water, and intended for boat-races. The remains of this magnificent palace, are all of brick, extremely maffy. The
royal

royal apartments were lined with stucco, and adorned with beautiful fresco paintings, some small specimens of which are still preserved, as also of the marble pillars which originally stood in those chambers. While we were exploring these ruins, our Italian servant advised us to look under our feet, as he said there was a strong smell of serpents, which frequently lie in the long grass that grows among the loose stones; however, we saw none. Hot and sultry. Distant thunder.

ROME, *April 20.*

THE king and queen of Naples arrived this morning from Florence. In the afternoon, we went in full dress suits of mourning, in which only we could

could be admitted, to the sixtine chapel to hear the famous *miserere*. The principal part consisted in chanting psalms, but at the beginning and conclusion was a short piece, in which the effect of the different voices combined together in the *affettuoso* style, without the accompaniment of any instrument, was wonderfully fine. This ceremony was designed only for the cardinals, as his holiness did not attend. Some clouds and warm. Ther. 69.

April 21.

THE ceremonies of this day began with grand mass, in the sixtine chapel, at which the pope himself officiated, in presence of the king and queen of Naples, and the mesdames of France,

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who had boxes erected on purpose for them on the outside of the rails, which are placed to prevent un sanctified feet from treading in that *holy of holies*, where none but consecrated persons are permitted to enter.

Almost the whole time of the mass, which lasted nearly two hours, different ecclesiastics were dressing and undressing the pope, changing the mitres he wore, and lifting up his PETTICOATS, under which appeared fine Morocco slippers and loose stockings or trowsers of white satin, richly embroidered with gold. In short his holiness, though a stout comely looking man for his age, being turned seventy-four, was so loaded with his different vestments, according to the different parts he was to perform, that I was apprehensive the good old successor of St. Peter,

Peter, would hardly be able to support the weight of his accoutrements, especially as the day was remarkably warm, and there was a prodigious croud all about him. The embracing and saluting all the cardinals round *, was not per-

* The operation of *public kissing*, makes up no small part of the devotion of Pope Pius the Sixth, who every day about two o'clock, goes with one or two attendants to St. Peter's church, in a white gown and red slippers, kneels before two or three different altars, and never fails to kiss with great fervency, the foot of a brazen figure, which was found in the Tibur, and is called a statue of that apostle, though from the drapery, which has the appearance of the toga, it is most probably that of a Roman consul. Be that as it may, the warmth of this infallible father is not damped by uncertainties, for he kisses and re-kisses the foot of this graven image, but retires a little backward several times, when he repeatedly bows down before it as low as the Persian when he worships the sun; then approaches it again, and in token of his submission, puts his head under the sole of the foot, which he can easily do, as the figure is seated in a chair elevated about five feet from the ground. Before it is honored by the holy kiss, one of the pope's attendants takes a cloth and carefully wipes it, and as soon as his holiness retires, several persons, who wait in the church on purpose, run with great eagerness to kiss the foot

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them.

perhaps the least fatiguing part of the business his holiness had to go through.

As soon as the mass was concluded, the Pope, arrayed in a robe of scarlet† and gold, and covered with a mitre of gold thread, was carried in his chair of state to a balcony in the front of St. Peter's, from whence he gave his benediction to an immense multitude of

themselves, and to catch the salute warm from the sacred lip, inasmuch that the brazen toe is almost worn away by the frequency of these embraces.

† Whosoever views the pope and the whole consistory of cardinals, all clothed in scarlet, all having taken the vow of celibacy, (however rarely they may keep it) all assembled in the city, situated on seven hills, all joining in the prohibition of flesh meat on certain days, all sitting in the temple of God, and exalting themselves and their own authority so highly, as to dispense in several instances with the express commandments of God: I say, whosoever views, and attentively considers only these few particulars, must certainly be struck with the amazing similitude between the modern Romish church, and the scripture predictions concerning that corrupt power.

peo-

people, that waited in the area below to receive it. This business was conducted with much solemnity. A party of foot soldiers, being drawn up in a line before the church, formed an area for two parties of horse that made their appearance at the same moment from each colonade*, and marched with colors flying and drums and trumpets sounding to the centre, where they dismounted and fell upon their knees together, with the vast assembly that surrounded them, who remained profoundly silent for a few moments,

* These colonades are joined to the church, and being built in a semi-circular form, constitute a noble area in its front; they are three hundred and sixty eight feet long, and fifty-six wide, and supported by four rows of pillars of the Doric order, forty feet in height. The area is of an elliptic form, seven hundred and twenty-eight feet in breadth, and six hundred and six in length. In the centre is an obelisk of Egyptian granite, seventy-four feet in height, or, including the pedestal and the cross, one hundred and twenty-four, and on each side, two handsome fountains which play continually.

in full persuasion that the blessing about to be given would be efficacious to their present and eternal felicity. The discharge of a cannon from the castle of St. Angelo was the signal; when those who were in the most distant parts of the city assumed the same attitude of devotion, and his holiness, with a grace and dignity peculiar to Pius the Sixth, waved his hand, and showered on the heads of the attending multitude those blessings which they so ardently expected.

In the next place, to convince the people that his heart was not set upon the pomps and vanities of this wicked world, the holy father washed the feet of twelve poor men of as many different nations, (though indeed they were all made perfectly clean before) and then kissed them, after which each one
was

was presented by a cardinal with a flower, and a piece of money. The same men were afterwards conducted to a table elegantly set out with artificial flowers and sweet-meats, and served by the pope and cardinals with a good dinner of excellent soles and other fish.

In the afternoon was performed another *miserere*, and as soon as it began to grow dark, a large gilt cross was suspended in the middle of St. Peter's, and illuminated in a beautiful manner. During that time there were four processions of men and boys up the church, carrying crucifixes and torches, masked with linen veils, having long loose gowns, tied round the waist, and a cloak of a different color. Some had sandals, and some were quite barefoot. I must confess that had I met these any where else, my heart would have pal-

pitated with fear, as the idea their appearance immediately suggested to me, which was that of beings raised from an infernal world, was not at all correspondent with a christian festival. Being arrived at the upper end of the church, they knelt round the altar, which the priests were engaged in purifying, and had little brushes for the purpose, like powder-puffs; but what were the particulars of that operation, I was unable to discover, on account of the crowd. There was at the same time an exposition of some relics, which were held out from an high balcony inclosed in rich cases. These consisted of a piece of the *real* cross, the holy handkerchief, &c. &c.

Among the multitudes that flock to Rome at this season, are a prodigious number of pilgrims, many of whom
have

have confessed this morning to a cardinal empowered to absolve from some sins, which a common priest is obliged to leave among the *casus reservati*, or reserved cases,

We went at night to the Palazzo Doria, in consequence of an invitation from the *principe*, to whom it belongs, to meet the king and queen of Naples. The apartments were splendidly illuminated, and contained about a thousand visitors of the first distinction in Rome. Their majesties did not arrive till past eleven, when they walked through the apartments, paying attention to all the company with great condescension and affability, and then took some refreshment in a private room, after which a profusion of ices, lemonades, and cakes were distributed by an army of

of domestics*, and the whole concluded with a grand concert.

ROME, *March 22.*

THE pope's guards, who are stationed at the avenues leading to his palace, are dressed in the most strange, whimsical manner imaginable, viz. in a suit

* The next day the servants waited upon us to beg something for their attendance, a custom prevalent throughout Italy, if ever you set foot in their masters houses; even the attendants of the vice-roy of Sicily, who had more the appearance of gentlemen in waiting than of domestics, took care to remind us that a fee was customary; and at Catania and Syracuse we were quite pestered with a set of beggars in livery, *only* because we had letters of recommendation to their masters, and once or twice made use of their carriages, though we were never asked to eat or drink in their houses. One indeed thought proper to apply, because, *to oblige his master*, we conveyed a letter for him to Naples. At the convent of noble monks near Palermo, the butler who so liberally dealt about the wine, actually followed us into the courtyard, and there plainly asked us for the *bona mano*, or a present of money, which we gave him on the spot.

composed of broad stripes, of blue, yellow, and red cloth, and in stockings of blue and yellow. They have a buff belt hanging over one shoulder, a cocked hat, with a white feather and a large laced band, to shew that they belong to a spiritual, or rather an ecclesiastical prince, of whom the other parts of their attire, are in many respects, characteristic. Those, whose office it is to keep order during the ceremonies, are covered with a suit of armor and an helmet, and look just like the old figures in the tower of London.

A third *miserere*, different from the former, was performed this evening in the usual place, after which the pope and cardinals went into St. Peter's, to pay their adorations before the cross, which was illuminated in the same manner as yesterday.

A very

A very splendid fete is made this evening at the Palazzo Colonna, for the king and queen of Naples, and an invitation given to all the world, but my nephew not being very well, we decline accepting it. Warm and showery.

ROME, *March 23.*

THIS evening the outside of St. Peter's was brilliantly illuminated. The principal lines of the building were thickly set with lamps, and the dark parts being invisible, it appeared like the outlines of an immense drawing, sketched in gold. By an happy arrangement of the persons destined to illuminate, the appearance was changed in a moment from studs of gold to flaming stars. The pope came to the
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fight in a state coach drawn by six white horses. Immediately after, there was a very grand display of fire-works from the castle of St. Angelo, for which his holiness, out of compliment to his royal guests, gave four hundred crowns extraordinary. The sudden discharge of cannons and crackers caused two carriages to be run away with, by which means two persons were killed, and seven others much hurt*. Warm and showery.

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* Grand as the exhibition of fire-works at the Castello de St. Angelo was, I think it little exceeded what we saw at Loretto, when the miracle of what is called in the popish calendar *la traslazione della santa casa*, or the transportation of the holy house, was celebrated on the ninth and tenth days of December last year. I shall, therefore, beg leave in this place, first, to introduce an account of the miracle itself, as it stands (in substance) graven on a plate upon the wall of the cathedral at Loretto, in old English spelling, though how it comes to be recorded in that language is to me a mystery; secondly, give

March 24.

THIS morning the pope performed grand mass at St. Peter's with the usual state, and afterwards gave his benediction to a larger multitude of people than

give as short a description as possible of the commemoration of that grand event. First, then, for the miracle itself.

When the Turks first got possession of the holy land, this house, we are told, was carried by angels into Dalmatia, but the people there, not paying it proper respect, it only staid with them four or five years, before the angels took it up a second time, carried it by night across the Adriatic, and dropt it where it now stands at Loretto. Here it remained about a century, the miracle unknown, the house unnoticed, till some holy man had a dream revealing to him the wonderful transaction, which happened, as the dreamer asserted, between three and four o'clock in the morning of the tenth of December, just 490 years ago. He told his dream to some more holy men, and these to others as holy as themselves, till at last it reached the ears of the holiest of all men, his holiness himself, who ordered, or at least gave his *fiat*, for the building of a most magnificent church, as also a superb case of white marble, ornamented in the Corinthian style, to be erected

than attended on Thursday ; he then proceeded to the canonization of a female French saint, who had (as his holiness declared with great gravity) performed *three notable miracles*. She had been dead an hundred years, for,
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erected round this little old fabric (where a priest shewed us the window through which the angel Gabriel fled, the fire-place at which the virgin warmed herself, the gown she wore, and the cup she drank out of), so that if the angels should ever attempt to move it again, a very extraordinary degree of force would be needful to accomplish the business. However, if want of respect in Dalmatia sent it to Loretto, there is no danger of its ever going any farther, since it is impossible it should have higher honors paid it, even in Rome itself, as what follows will no doubt fully evince.

A vast multitude was assembled from all parts early in the day. In the evening the bishop, the canons, and all the ecclesiastics belonging to the cathedral assembled there, most gorgeously arrayed in vestments of flowered silk richly and superbly embroidered with gold. The music and voices on this occasion were collected from Rome and every part of the pope's dominions. All the persons of rank and distinction appeared full dressed, or as it is called in Italy, *in gala*.

When

according to the rules of the church, no persons can be canonized till so long a time after their decease.

In the afternoon, about sun-set, there was an horse-race in the Corso, which
is

When this most splendid exhibition was ended, the company repaired to the palace of the archbishop, before which the fire-works were let off from a vast machine erected in front of the church, and for beauty and variety they were hardly, if at all, inferior to those of the holy week at Rome. Between ten and eleven, the devotion, or rather the madness of the people was raised to so high a pitch, that fire-works, crackers, &c. blazed and bounced, and cannons roared in every part of the town; but between the hours of three and four in the morning (the time when the *holy* man dreamed that the *holy* house was carried and fixed by the *holy* angels in its present *holy* situation) the cannonading was so incessant and so loud, that we felt our beds shake under us, and really trembled for ourselves, as well as for the poor wretched old inn where we took up our abode; and observed, in the morning, that the floor and one of the beams of the ceiling had actually given way two or three inches. We were told that the next day's fire-works were to exceed these, but we were thankful to escape in a whole skin: so we left Loretto and the *black lady's* house, not less
wondering

is the principal street in the city, about a mile in length. The horses were without riders, but made to go full speed by having little prickly balls attached to their backs, which acted the stronger as the velocity of the poor beasts increased. Seventeen started, but one of them ran against a carriage and died in a few minutes. The conqueror was presented to the king of Naples, who sat with his queen in a balcony belonging to the Palazzo Doria. Eleven state coaches paraded the street just before the starting, and cannons were fired at the time, as if to

wondering at the gravity and demure looks of the bishop and clergy, whilst they were keeping up the farce, than at the amazing folly of so many kings, queens, emperors, and empresses, (among whom the bigotted Mary of England cuts no mean figure) in sending such an immense profusion of gold, silver, and precious stones (surpassing all imagination) as there dazzles the eye, by way of devotional offerings to a parcel of mouldered bricks and an old black wooden idol.

announce something of the greatest consequence.

The holy ceremonies concluded with a second illumination of St. Peter's, and another magnificent display of fire-works.

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
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